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MEDIA RELEASE

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Deepening Australia's engagement with the Muslim world – visit to Malaysia by Australia's Special Envoy to the OIC, Mr Ahmed Fahour AO

Australia's Special Envoy to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Mr Ahmed Fahour AO, visited Malaysia for a one-day official visit yesterday.

Mr Fahour called on Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Dato' Dr Asyraf Wajdi Dusuki, to discuss Australia's engagement with the OIC, Islamic banking and finance, as well as key challenges facing the Muslim world. They also shared experiences on countering violent extremism.

Mr Fahour was treated to a tour and prayers at *Masjid Negara* with the Grand Imam, Tan Sri Syaikh Ismail Muhammad. He also had lunch with local experts and commentators, to exchange views on trends in Islam in Australia and Malaysia.

A highlight for Mr Fahour was a visit to the "Faith, Fashion, Fusion: Muslim Women's Style in Australia" exhibition at the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia, which is being displayed for the first time internationally with the support of the Australian Government and Lendlease Malaysia.

Developed by the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences in Sydney, "Faith, Fashion Fusion" explores the experiences and achievements of Australian Muslim women and how they express their faith through fashion. It also displays Australia's growing modest fashion market and the work of a new generation of Muslim designers and entrepreneurs.

Mr Fahour, who is also the Patron of the Islamic Museum of Australia said, "*The exhibition showcases the diversity of Australia's Muslim communities and the significant contribution they make to Australia's contemporary, multicultural society.*"

Mr Fahour welcomed these efforts that help to build understanding and respect between the Islamic community and other faiths and cultures. Mr Fahour invited all Malaysians to visit Australia to learn more about and experience our diverse and open multicultural society.

Ends/

Ahmed Fahour AO
Australia's Special Envoy to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

Ahmed Fahour is Australia's Special Envoy to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, a position he has held since 2012.

He has served in a number of senior management roles in large Australian companies. He is currently the Chairman of Pro-Pac Packaging Ltd and a Director of the Dubai-based express logistics company, Aramex.



Prior to this, Mr Fahour served as Group CEO of Australia Post. At a time of great change for the postal service, he implemented successful reforms to reorient Australia Post to become an integral part of the burgeoning Australian e-commerce market.

Mr Fahour began his career at Boston Consulting Group in 1987 and has since occupied senior positions at the iFormation Group, Citigroup, National Australia Bank and the Ripcurl Group.

Mr Fahour has also been a Member of the Prime Minister's Social Inclusion Board, a Director of the Migration Council Australia and Chair of the Council for Australian-Arab Relations.

In 2017, Mr Fahour was made an Officer of the Order of Australia for his contribution to business and multicultural relations. In 2015, the Victorian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commissioner appointed him as a 'Male Champion of Change', reaffirming his commitment to workplace gender equality.

Mr Fahour holds a Bachelor of Economics from La Trobe University and an MBA from the University of Melbourne.