

# DIALOGUE AMONG CIVILIZATIONS

UNIVERSITI Putra Malaysia has been invited to participate in a worldwide essay contest on Dialogue among Civilizations organised by the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the International Centre for Dialogue among Civilizations, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

The School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University, New Jersey, USA has been assigned to administer the contest.

In September 1998, speaking before the United Nations General Assembly, President Mohammad Khatami of the Islamic Republic of Iran put forth a call for a dialogue among civilizations. He urged that a new process be initiated to replace "hostility and confrontation with discourse and understanding."

Following President Khatami's proposal, the General Assembly proclaimed the year 2001 as the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations. This essay contest has been organised in support of this initiative and as part of worldwide cultural, educational and social programs to promote the concept of dialogue for bridging differences among the peoples of the world, especially the younger generation.

## **Guidelines for the Contest**

**Topic:** How do you envision the contribution the Dialogue among Civilizations can make to better prepare the peoples of the world, especially the youth, for challenges of tomorrow?

**Essay Format:** The essay should be between 900 and 1200 words in length, excluding sources. If it is necessary to cite sources, bibliographic information should be included as an endnote immediately following the essay. Entries must be typed, double-spaced. Paper size must be 8+by11-inch or A4 with one-inch margins (2.5cm).

The student's personal details, i.e. name, matriculation number, program, address and telephone number (or e-mail address) should be provided on a separate page and not on the essay itself.

**Eligibility and Submission of Essays:** Only undergraduate students are eligible to take part in this competition. Essays should be written in English and submitted by 10 September 2001, to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohammad A. Quayum in the Department of English, Faculty of Modern Languages and Communication.