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## Islamic centre opens in Rome

Dr. Ahmed Muhammed Ali, the Secretary General of the Muslim World League Organization in Makkah al-Mukarramah has expressed gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy mosques, King Fahd bi Abdul Aziz, for the special attention the monarch pays to the affairs and interests of Muslims, and commended the services offered by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Muslim communities all over the world of the behest of the Saudi Arabian monarch, says a Press release.

This statement was issued to mark the occasion of the preparations being made for the inauguration of the Islamic Cultural Centre in Rome by H.R. H Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz on June 16 on behalf of the Custodian of the Holy Mosques, King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz, with the presence of Mr. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro- President of the Republic of Italy.

While commanding Saudi Arabia's role in supporting Islamic propagation activities and promoting the Islamic principle of moderation in life, Dr. Ali further stressed that, the construction of the center became a reality, through the grace of God and the sustained support of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

The Islamic Cultural Center, he said, will remain as a symbol of cooperation among the Muslim communities, as well as a beacon of Islamic culture and civilization and a dedicated endeavour for the sake of the common good of mankind. Dr. Ali then said, he was delighted that the supervision of this important center has been assigned to the M.W.L. organization which oversees the running of a number of Islamic centers in the world including, the Islamic Center of Madrid.

On the other-hand, a spokesman of the M.W.L., has pointed out that, the Islamic Cultural Center in Rome which is located on a plot of land allocated by the Italian government in 1975, and measuring 30,000 square meters, is the most gigantic structure depicting Islamic culture in Europe. The center, through its administration and various facilities, will render services to all the Muslims living in Italy, he said.

Describing the center, the spokesman said it comprises a Mosque which can accommodate 2000 devotees, an equal number can also be accommodated in roofed courtyard. Another Mosque which can accommodate 100 devotees at a time has been designed especially for the five daily prayers. There is also a school comprising ten class rooms, an auditorium with a capacity of accommodating 500 persons, an Islamic museum, guest room car parks and a public garden.

In view of the special place Italy enjoys as the seat of the Vatican, and as a tourist attraction visited by millions of people from various parts of the world, the centre will indeed serve a point from which the rays of Islam could beam over all parts of the world.

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