

Arroyo accepts invitation to attend Islamic conference in Malaysia

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President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has accepted an invitation by Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad to attend a meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference in October, her spokesman said Monday. Aside from Arroyo, the heads of state of Russia, South Africa and Ghana have also been invited to the opening ceremony of the Kuala Lumpur meeting, said presidential spokesman Ignacio Bunye.

Arroyo's administration has sought the help of Malaysia and the OIC, the Muslim world's largest grouping, in brokering peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, a Muslim rebel group which has been fighting for an independent homeland in this mostly Roman Catholic nation. Aside from brokering the talks, Malaysia has agreed to deploy teams that would help monitor a cease-fire.