

TRANSLATION

Speech of

His Royal Highness Prince
Khalid Al-Faisal Ibn Abd Al-Aziz
Director General of King Faisal Foundation
And Chairman of
King Faisal International Prize Committee

Friday 16.2.2001 (22.11.1421H)

Praise to Allah, and peace and prayers upon the
Prophet Muhammad and all his family and companions.

Your Royal Highness Prince Abd Allah bin Abd Al-Aziz,
Crown Prince, Deputy Premiere and President of the National Guard
Your Royal Highness Prince of Wales
Your Royal Highnesses,
Your Highnesses,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Laureates and Guests
Brothers and Sisters,

Asslam Alaikum,

I would like to welcome you, Your Royal Highness Prince Abd Allah,
and thank you for honoring this occasion, as representative of the
Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. I would also like to acknowledge
the continuous support and the efforts King Fahad and yourself are
making to promote knowledge.

I would also like to welcome His Royal Highness Prince Charles, the
Prince of Wales - a singular character of great international esteem.

A warm welcome is also extended to our most honorable guests, King Simon and Queen Margarita, and their Highnesses the Princes and Princesses of Europe.

Distinguished Guests,

The accomplishments of King Faisal International Prize cannot be over-emphasized. Within few years after its establishment, the Prize was able to attain a high-ranking status, while each one of its laureates figured out as a pioneer in his or her field. Last year's winners of the biology prize, for instance, included Edward Wilson, probably the most celebrated scientist in the 20th Century, and Craig Venter who - at the dawn of the 21st century - stunned the world by sequencing the entire human genome.

Distinguished Guests,

Cultural and scientific festivals have many special features, but tonight's one is unique – it celebrates the union between political wisdom and the power of knowledge. Congratulations to a splendid harmony between the power of Will and the will of power.

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to those sharing the occasion with us - I look forward to celebrate the union between political and intellectual powers for many years to come.