

Presentation of the
2011 King Faisal International Prize
By
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Secretary General of King Faisal International Prize

33rd KFIP Award Ceremony
Sunday 13 March 2011 (8.4.1432H)

In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Praise be to Allah, the Sustainer of the Worlds, and Peace and Prayers be Upon our Prophet Muhammad and all his family, companions and followers.

Your Royal Highness Prince Nayef bin Abd Al-Aziz,
Second Deputy Premier, Minister of Interior
Your Highnesses,
Your Eminences,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests

Assalam Alaikum,

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this year's winners of the King Faisal International Prizes.

The King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam has been awarded to the Honorable Tun Abd Allah Ahmad Badawi, former Prime Minister of Malaysia, who was nominated for the Prize by the Islamic Conference Organization in Jeddah. He has been awarded the Prize in recognition of his distinguished accomplishments, including:

1. Strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation through his active leadership of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Non-Alliance Movement and the Islamic Conference Organization during Malaysia's chairmanship of these organizations between 2003 G and 2008 G.

2. Reinforcing Malaysian economic competitiveness and pursuing the development of human resources as a fundamental pillar of his administration.
3. Promoting education, encouraging Islamic religious studies and incepting private religious schools as part of the Malaysian basic education system.
4. Establishing – in 2008 - the International Institute for Higher Islamic Studies, a non-political institution for widening the scope of Islamic thought beyond the boundaries of political parties.
5. Supporting Islamic legal administration and strengthening alms, endowments and Hajj institutions in Malaysia.

I am pleased to invite the Honorable Prime Minister Abd Allah Ahmad Badawi to proceed forward to receive the Prize and deliver his speech.

The King Faisal International Prize for Islamic Studies in the topic of (Socioeconomic Aspects in the Islamic World through 10th-13th Century Hijri/16th-19th Century A.D.) has been awarded jointly to: Professor Halil Ibrahim Inalcek (Turkey), Professor at Bilkent University, Ankara, who was nominated for the Prize by King Saud University in Riyadh, and Professor Muhammad Adnan Bakhit Al-Sheyyab (Jordan), Chairman of the *History of Bilad al-Sham Committee* at the Jordanian University, who was nominated for the Prize by the Royal *Aal-albait* Foundation for Islamic Thought in Amman.

Professor Inalcek has been awarded the Prize for his seminal book: "*An Economic and Social History of the Ottoman Empire: 1300-1600*" Part I, which represents the pinnacle of his research over six decades, and establishes an entirely new school of thought independently from the centrist, European approach to studying Ottoman history. Professor Inalcek's inferences drew from reliable, original and highly documentative sources and have influenced many scholars of economic and social aspects of Ottoman history.

Since Professor Inalcek's health condition prevents him from attending the ceremony, he has delegated Dr. Bulent Ari to receive the award on his behalf and deliver his acceptance speech.

I am pleased to invite Dr. Ari to proceed forward to receive Professor Inalcek's Prize and deliver his speech.

Professor Muhammad Adnan Bakhit Al-Sheyyab has been awarded the Prize for his 3-volume book: *“Studies into the History of Bilad ash-Sham (today’s Palestine, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon)”* which deals with profoundly important aspects of the economic and social history of those countries. Professor Bakhit al-Sheyyab’s studies derive from different sources including documents of Ottoman archives and records of Sharia courts and churches, as well as conventional sources. He has applied statistical and graphical methods to obtain new and influential information, thereby founding a new Arabic school of research in this field.

I am pleased to invite Professor Al-Sheyyab to proceed forward to receive the Prize and deliver his speech.

The King Faisal International Prize for Medicine in the topic of (Stem Cell Therapy) has been awarded jointly to: Professor James Thomson (USA), Director of Regenerative Biology at Morgridge Institute for Research and Professor at the University of Wisconsin, who was nominated for the Prize by the University of California in San Francisco and the Genome Center in Wisconsin, and Professor Shinya Yamanaka (Japan), Director of the Center for Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell Research and Application, and Professor at Kyoto University, Japan, who was nominated for the Prize by the David Gladstone Institute in California.

Having succeeded in harvesting stem cells from non-human primates in 1995 and from human embryos in 1998, Professor James Thomson, and independently Professor Yamanaka, made – in 2007 – the astounding discovery that adult human skin cells could be induced to become pluripotent stem cells that resemble embryonic stem cells. This important breakthrough has revitalized interest in stem cell biology, with many laboratories re-investigating the possible use of these cells in the modeling and treatment of human diseases.

I am pleased to invite Professor Thomson to proceed forward to receive the Prize and deliver his speech.

Professor Shinya Yamanaka achieved a major breakthrough in 2006 when he was able to generate induced pluripotent stem cells from mouse adult fibroblasts. In 2007, he succeeded, independently of Professor Thomson, in reprogramming human adult skin cells into induced pluripotent stem cells.

I am pleased to invite Professor Yamanaka to proceed forward to receive the Prize and deliver his speech.

The King Faisal International Prize for Science in the field of “Chemistry” has been awarded jointly to Professor George Whitesides (USA), Woodford L. and Ann A. Flowers University Professor at Harvard University, who was nominated for the Prize by Harvard University, and Professor Richard Zare (USA), Marguerite Blake Wilbur Professor in Natural Science at Stanford University, which nominated him for the Prize.

Professor Whitesides has revolutionized the field of self assembly using molecular scale synthesis to control the macroscopic properties of surfaces. This and his work on soft lithography, where he developed practical methods to mold complex patterns on surfaces, is characterized by its relevance to diverse fields such as molecular electronics, material science and biology. Professor Whitesides has recognized and developed connections between nanoscience and biological systems, leading to new paradigms for drug design, which may enable new and inexpensive approaches to bioscience and medical diagnostics.

I am pleased to invite Professor Whitesides to proceed forward to receive his Prize and deliver his speech.

Professor Zare is recognized for his fundamental contribution to the understanding of molecular dynamics and chemical reactions. He developed the extremely sensitive technique of laser induced fluorescence and pioneered its application in many fields ranging from analytical chemistry and molecular biology to astrophysics.

I am pleased to invite Professor Zare to proceed forward to receive his Prize and deliver his speech.

In conclusion, I am pleased to express, on behalf of the General Secretariat of the King Faisal International Prize, our sincere gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, sponsor of King Faisal Prize ceremony and to His Royal Highness Prince Nayef bin Abd Al-Aziz, Second Deputy Premier and Minister of Interior for sponsoring the ceremony on behalf of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. I would also like to congratulate the winners of this year's prizes for a well deserved recognition, and to thank our distinguished guests for sharing this happy event with us. Special appreciation and thanks are extended to all of those who cooperated with us during the nomination, refereeing and selection processes.

May Allah assist and support all of those working towards the welfare of humanity.

Thank you and good evening to all of you.