

Address by
Dr. Ahmed M. Al-Dhubaib,
Secretary General, King Faisal International Prize
The Third Ceremony, Monday, 1 March 1982

In the Name of Allah the Most Merciful

Your Royal Highness Crown Prince,
Your Royal Highnesses,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,

On this day in which King Faisal International Prize recognizes those who served Islam and humanity through their exceptional contributions, each in their respective field of interest, I am pleased to briefly outline the steps taken to select winners; and I would like also to introduce the prize laureates.

The prize by-law stipulates that nominations for the Service to Islam Prize shall be received from Islamic organizations and agencies from all over the world. As for the categories of Islamic studies, Arabic literature and medicine, it is stated that nominations could be submitted by scientific institutions worldwide, such as universities, research centers and learned societies. The by-law rules out individual nominations and partisan submissions.

On this basis, the Secretariat General contacted Islamic organizations, scientific institutions and academic centers from around the world, inviting them to nominate eligible candidates for the prize in its four categories. This invitation was also publicly announced in local, regional and international mass media. Upon receipt of nominations, the Secretariat General starts short-listing the candidates to ensure their fulfillment of the terms and conditions of the Prize. The nominations were then sent to three distinguished international referees for the categories of Islamic studies and the Arabic literature; and five referees for the prize of medicine. The referees studied the entries extensively and submitted their reports to the Secretariat General, which called for meetings of the Selection Committees of the four categories. Those committees consisted of prominent figures, scholars, university professors and representatives of Islamic and scientific agencies.

The Selection Committees of the five branches for Service to Islam, Islamic Studies, Arabic Literature, Medicine and Science, deliberated for three days and the Committee of the Prize for Service to Islam decided to award the Prize to Shaikh Abdulaziz Bin Baz, a prominent Islamic figure and an outstanding example of contemporary Islamic leadership. Shaikh Bin Baz adheres to Islamic teachings in all his deeds, and in his thought, conduct and style of life. His activities spanned diverse areas of Islamic Call, Islamic studies and research and Islamic teachings.

The Selection Committee for the prize of Islamic Studies decided to award the prize to Dr. Mohammed Najatullah Siddiqui, on the topic of Contemporary Economic Problems from the

Islamic Perspectives, for his profundity and deep knowledge of the Prize's topic, accuracy of style and serious reflections on the Islamic economics.

The Selection Committee for the prize of Arabic Literature on the topic of 'studies on pre-Islam era towards the end of the First Century AH' and decided to award the Prize to Dr. Nasir Al-Din Al-Asad for his outstanding contributions, particularly his book: "Sources of Ancient Poetry and their Historical Value". Dr. Al-Asad's research efforts have been characterized by:

1. Originality and objectivity
2. Completeness and scientific rigor
3. Refutation of misconceptions on Arabic ancient poetry
4. The importance of his work to other researchers

For these reasons, the referees reached a consensus in awarding the prize to Dr. Al-Asad.

The Selection Committee for the prize of Medicine decided to award the prize to Dr. David C. Morley, of British nationality, for the following rationales:

1. His distinguished contributions to child health in tropical countries in Africa and Asia.
2. His relentless efforts in Nigeria towards developing innovative scientific methods and training of medical staff responsible for delivering medical services to children.
3. Disseminating his research results to a wide audience through publication in medical journals, scientific periodicals, participation in conferences and authoring the famous title, 'Pediatrics Priorities in Developing Countries'.
4. Encouraging affordable educational methods such as presentation slides and explanatory details. Through these efforts, his field experience and knowledge has been widely shared with colleagues across the developing countries.

Furthermore, I wish to announce that the Selection Committees agreed on the topics of the five branches of the prize next year as follows:

For the category of Islamic Studies, the prize next year shall be dedicated to Studies on the Holy Quran and for Arabic Literature, it will be on the theme of Arabic literature in the 2nd and 3rd Century AH.

As for the category of Medicine, the topic will be malaria; and for the category of science, the Committee met for the first time this year and decided that next year's topic shall be Physics.

I conclude by thanking Your Highness for sponsoring this ceremony; and I equally thank all persons cooperating with the Secretariat General either by submission of nominations or by participating in the refereeing or selection processes.

Thank you.