

Address by
Dr. Ahmed M. Al-Dhubaib,
Secretary General, King Faisal International Prize
The Third Ceremony, Tuesday, 1 March 1983

In the Name of Allah the Most Merciful

Your Majesty,
Your Royal Highness the Crown Prince,
Your Royal Highness Second Deputy Premier,
Your Highnesses,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,

It is a great and splendid occasion having Your Majesty patronizing the King Faisal International Prize award ceremony. This reflects Your Majesty's encouragement of learning and scholarship, and of scientists, thinkers and workers in the area of religious services, thought promotion and pursuit of human happiness; this is quite tangible and is an indication of the great attention your Majesty pays to this prize to reach its sixth anniversary with clarity of objective, fairness of selection and self-confidence in singling out champions of knowledge and achievement.

Today, Your Majesty is awarding five laureates, each of whom has prominently contributed to their fields of specialty, devoting their lives to benefit their nations, educate generations and setting examples of combining purposeful learning to good deeds.

The Prize for Service to Islam is awarded to two Muslim leaders, Prince Tunku Abd Al-Rahman of Malaysia and Shaikh Hasanein Mohammad Makhlof of Egypt.

Prince Tunku Abd Al-Rahman is renowned for his prominent role in leading the Malaysian liberation movement during the era of the British colonization of his country. He established the Birkim Islamic Society that undertook various Islamic activities in South-East Asia. Further, he extended great efforts as the first Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). He provided assistance to disaster-stricken Muslim communities by protecting their lives as well as their various activities. These accomplishments could not have been achieved without Prince Abd Al-Rahman's deep Islamic feelings and honest religious zeal.

The second laureate is Shaikh Makhlof, who is known for his prominent contributions to the teaching and nurturing of young generations of Islamic scholars and protecting people from the evils of heresies and superstition through his Fatwas and research. His contribution extended to the exposition of the Holy Quran and the Prophet's Sayings, as well as his participation in several Islamic conferences and the foundation of leading Islamic agencies whilst maintaining his scientific efforts in numerous institutions in the Islamic World and through the mass media.

On the other hand, King Faisal International Prize for Islamic Studies is awarded this year to Dr. Mohammad A. Odaimah, who spent over 35 years writing his mammoth book on the expression styles of the Holy Quran. This 11-volumed text titled, "Studies on the Styles of the Holy Quran", is a comprehensive encyclopedia that enriched the Quranic and grammatical disciplines, moving them from the use of limited examples and illustrations to the open horizons of Quran and its readings. Dr. Odaimah, through this study, has been able to demonstrate a fascinating memory, honest resolve, organized thinking and great perseverance in his research. He assisted students to

access and conduct research with ease. All of these accomplishments are within the objectives of King Faisal International Prize.

As regards King Faisal International Prize for Arabic Literature, it is awarded this year to Dr. Ahmed Shawqi Daif for his enormous literary contributions as exemplified by his two distinguished texts: History of Arabic Literature in the First Abbasid Era; and History of Arabic Literature in the Second Abbasid Era.

Dr. Daif is reputed for other important works on ancient and modern Arabic literary history, in the eastern and western Arab world, on Quranic studies, grammar or rhetoric's that reflected a deep insight into literary studies. Such works spanned the fields of authoring and editing many manuscripts. Dr. Daif's studies are characterized by:

- (1) Comprehensive view towards Arabic literature, both prose and verse, along various ages, across genres and origins.
- (2) Clarity of style, rigorous method and tapping at certain literary phenomena as well as an attempt to link them to their intellectual, cultural and social root causes.
- (3) Directing literary studies and opening horizons for new topics of benefit to a whole generation of scholars in their scholarly research that resulted in a real service to the Arabic literature from various aspects.

Furthermore, Dr. Daif has had a direct impact extending over forty years on many students from different Arab and Islamic countries, who benefitted from his mentoring and best example in practice and belief in Arabic heritage and its service.

The Prize for Medicine is awarded to Professor Wallace Peters of Britain, Emeritus Professor of Medical Parasitology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine at the University of London. The prize, dedicated to the topic of malaria, is conferred on Professor Peters for his contributions to fighting this fatal disease. Such efforts include:

1. Being an authority on the effectiveness of medicines for malaria. He had a great role in applying multiple drugs at a time to obviate the phenomenon of drug-resistance by malaria parasites, particularly against previous medicines that lost their effectiveness in curing the disease.
2. His book on this topic is a world encyclopedia and a reference for researchers in malaria.
3. Dr. Peters spent over 35 years of his life conducting research on malariology. His efforts had had a great impact on the rapid containment of the disease throughout Eastern and Western Africa, Nepal and New Guinea, through his numerous field studies.
4. Maintaining research and laboratory work to explore the efficacy of novel anti-malarial drugs.
5. Providing advisory assistance through frequent visits to tropical regions with the consequent benefit to the world in the area of fighting this dangerous infection.

Your Majesty,
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Your Royal Highness the Second Deputy Premier,
Your Highnesses,
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Distinguished Guests,

It gives me great pleasure to announce that next year's prizes will be dedicated to the following topics:

- (1) In the Islamic Studies, the 1984's prize will be on "General Theories of Islamic Jurisprudence";
- (2) In the Arabic literature, it will be on "Studies on Arabic literature in the fourth Hijra Century";
- (3) In medicine, it will be on "Diarrhea Diseases"; and
- (4) In science, it will be "Physics".

Finally, I seize this opportunity to thank all those who have cooperated towards achieving the objectives of the Prize in terms of nomination and selection for the prizes.

Thank you.