

Address by
HRH PRINCE Khalid Al-Faisal
Chairman of the Board of Trustees, King Faisal Foundation
The Seventh Ceremony, 2 April 1985

In the Name of Allah the Most Merciful

Praise be to Allah who has distinguished pious people with the light of Islam and marked them with knowledge, saying “And such are the Parables We set forth for mankind, but only those who understand them who have knowledge”.

Your Majesty,
Your Royal Highnesses,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,

King Faisal International Prize is perhaps one of the salient features of our civilization as it indicates the state of progress achieved by the country and demonstrates its adherence to the teachings of Islam. The Prize honours outstanding scholars in the various disciplines of knowledge without prejudice to gender, colour or religion. Withholding the prize this year for Literature and Science is mainly attributable to the fact that entries submitted did not fulfil the criteria of the prize despite the extensive research put into them. The committees seek to encourage researchers towards more innovative work and excellence. We are confident that the nomination and selection procedures followed in this prize are ample evidence of our impartial respect of global human thought.

Your Majesty, King Faisal International Prize, a sprout of King Faisal Foundation is established to deliver services to creative human thought in all parts of the world. The outcome is dedicated to implementation of philanthropic projects in the Islamic countries, alleviation of brunt diseases and providing scholarships to Muslim scholars.

Let me congratulate the distinguished laureates of this year’s prizes for their distinguished work in their respective disciplines; we also wish them all prosperity in their future endeavours.

This day reminds me of the late King Faisal’s reply to a press interviewer when asked about his expectations for Saudi Arabia in the year 2000. He answered that he hopes Saudi Arabia would become a source of radiance for humanity. Today, the Kingdom, under Your Majesty’s reign has become a showcase of civilisation as it acknowledges and honours scholars and contributes to human progress to testify to the world that it is not just a source of material wealth but a home of spiritual radiance.

Thank you