

Address by
Dr. Ahmed M. Al-Dhubaib,
Secretary General, King Faisal International Prize
The Third Ceremony, Tuesday, 02 April 1985

In the Name of Allah the Most Merciful

Your Majesty,
Your Royal Highness Crown Prince,
Your Royal Highness Second Deputy Prince,
Your Highnesses,
Your Excellences,
Distinguished Guests,

I would like to introduce to Your Majesty the winners of the King Faisal International Prize this year.

The Prize for the Service to Islam is awarded to Mr. Abd Rab Al Rasoul Saiaf of Afghanistan, Chairman of the Islamic Union for the Liberation of Afghanistan. He was born in 1945, educated at university level in Afghanistan and obtained his Masters' degree in Hadith at Al Azhar University.

The Prize for Islamic Studies is awarded this year to three co winners:

- 1) Dr. Farouk A. Al Desouki, born in Alexandria in Egypt in 1938. He was educated to the Masters' Degree level in Alexandria and received his Ph.D, in Islamic Science at Dar Al Ulum College in Cairo in 1978. The Selection Committee awarded him the Prize for his work 'Destiny in Islam' in its first and second volumes. The book reflects a comprehensive grasp of the subject and is adequately supported by convincing evidence from the Holy Quran and the Prophet's Sunna, and an ability to convey ideas in a direct, fluent and convincing style
- 2) Dr. Mohammad R. Salim, born in Egypt in 1347H. He finished his general education in Cairo, Egypt and attained his Ph.D from Cambridge University in 1959. The selection of his candidature to the Prize is based on his distinguished work of editing the eleven-volumed "Avoiding Conflict between Thought and Tradition" by Ibn Taimiya. The book, published by King Saud University, reflects great ability in meeting the scientific requirements. It is part of a major project to edit the heritage of the famous Islamic scholar Ibn Taimiya, a project that deserves attention and encouragement.
- 3) Dr Mustafa M. Hilmi Suleiman, born in Egypt in 1932 and received his Ph D in 1971. He is presently Chairman of Department of Philosophy at The University of Cairo. His selection for the prize is based on his three works:
 - a\ Sunna Method in Religion Fundamentalism
 - b\ Principals of Fundamentalist Method and Islamic Approach to Theology, The World and Man for Ibn Taimiya.
 - c\ Fundamentalism between Islamic Creed and Western Philosophy.

These books are distinguished by:

- . Accuracy and authenticity
- . Rectitude of the author's intellectual orientation
- . Strength of Inferences in the schools of thought assumed or explored
- . Integrity and decency of style
- . Clarity and compactness of statements

The prize for Medicine on the topic of viral hepatitis is awarded this year to two co winners; Professor Mario Risotto and Professor R. Palmer Beasley.

Professor Mario Risotto was born in California in 1936, went to Harvard then to Washington University in Seattle at the professorship level in 1981. The Selection Committee singles out his discovery of the Delta Antigen (currently known as HDV) and elucidation of its role in fulminant and chronic hepatitis as worthy of the Prize. He explained that this is a nuclear antigen in patients infected with HBV. On this basis, HDV is a new virus that has a great impact on viral hepatology and other viral infections. By this discovery Professor Risotto has become instrumental in setting the stage for the production of a vaccine for this dangerous virus.

The second co winner is Professor R. Palmer Beasley (USA) whose studies resulted in two key discoveries. First, that infection with viral hepatitis can be transmitted from pregnant women to the fetus due to the fact that 90% of infections are acquired from pregnant mothers. Professor Beasley and his research group proved that vaccinating children of infected mothers with immunoglobulin at birth would reduce chances of infection. In view of these results, means of treating hepatitis B has greatly changed. Second, that those infected with hepatitis B would be prone to primary liver cancer. As high as 40% of those chronically infected with hepatitis B are subject to liver cancer and death; this study stands as evidence of the urgency of preventing hepatitis B to save lives of many humans.

Your Majesty, I would like to announce that the selection committees of the King Faisal International Prize decided the topics for next year to be as follows,

- 1) Islamic Studies: Studies Addressing Islamic History
- 2) Arabic Literature: Studies Addressing Arabic Literature in the Fifth and Sixth Hejira Centuries (on history, men, themes or publication)
- 3) Medicine: Diabetes
- 4) Science: Biochemistry

In conclusion, I wish to express our thanks to your Majesty for your patronage of the Prize. I wish also to thank all those who have cooperated with us towards the achievement of our objectives by participating in the nomination or selection of candidates.

Thank you