

Address by
Dr. Ahmed M. Al-Dhubaib,
Secretary General, King Faisal International Prize
The Third Ceremony, Tuesday, 09 March 1986

In the Name of Allah the Most Merciful

Your Royal Highness Crown Prince,
Your Royal Highness Deputy Premier and President of the National Guards,
Your Highnesses,
Your Excellences,
Distinguished Guests,

I would like to introduce to Your Royal Highness, winners of The King Faisal International Prize this year.

The Prize for Service to Islam is awarded this year to two co winners who are known for their distinct stances in serving Islam and Muslims: Mr. Ahmad H. Deedat (South Africa), and Dr. Roger Garaudy (France).

Mr. Deedat is known for his dedicated and relentless work on Islamic preaching activities for over 35 years at the local, regional and international levels. Through public debates, he staged reasoned arguments in confronting adversaries of Islam. He has also participated in several Islamic conferences, delivered public lectures and speeches to mass media and established Al Salam center to train preachers of Islam and to provide them with necessary tools enhancing the success of their mission. He also authored numerous publications and pamphlets in service of Islam, fighting missionary efforts and educating Muslims about their own belief and about provisions of Islam.

Dr. Roger Garaudy is a renowned scholar who has converted to Islam. In his books, he explains Islam and the soundness of its basics and principles in providing a decent life to humanity through history. This is clearly demonstrated in his books 'Islam Lives in our Future' and 'Promises of Islam'. His support of Palestine is expressed in his addresses to the media, press articles and his book 'The Palestinian Issue'. In international conferences Garaudy always strikes a balance between civilizations and the Islamic principles and fundamentals. He demonstrates that adhering to these Islamic principles would certainly redeem Man from current worries threatening the world.

The Prize for Islamic studies is awarded this year to Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Duri (Iraq) in acknowledgment of his research on Islamic history. His book 'The Economics History of Iraq during the Seventh Century AH' is the best reference to the subject, in which he pursues a rigorous scientific method in researching and investigating the topic, with accuracy of statements and clarity and soundness of arguments. Dr. Al Duri is one of the scholars who greatly affected the orientation of Historical Islamic studies.

The Prize for Arabic Literature on Studies Dealing with Arabic Literature During the Fifth and Sixth Hejira Centuries is awarded to Mr. Mohammad B. Al Athari (Iraq) for editing the ancient masterpiece 'Khareedat Al Qasr wa Jaridat Al Asr' by Emad Aldeen Al Asfahani in four volumes about the Iraqi poets. Mr. Al Athary's work on editing the manuscript is based

on matching imaged texts to poets' anthologies and news from various literary sources. He spent most of his life serving Arabic language, literature and thought. He authored a number of books, research papers and articles that warrant appreciation.

The Prize for Medicine, dedicated this year to Diabetes, is awarded to three winners, Professor Gian Franco Bottazzo (Italy), Professor Elbert E. Renold (Switzerland) and Professor Lelio Orci (Italy).

Professor Bottazzo deserved the committee's appreciation for his research in autoimmunity particularly among type 1 diabetics as a result of reduction in insulin secreting beta cells of the pancreatic islets. This research has paved the way for a wave of studies in autoimmunity among type one diabetes and some of the diseases such as those inflicting thyroid and pituitary glands. He also showed that antigens relating to the HLA system control the body system of immunity. This linkage between a patient's genetic make-up and the development of autoimmunity to the islets beta cells has led to new approaches to the prevention of diabetes mellitus.

Professor Elbert E. Renolds's numerous contributions since 1940s to the understanding of diabetes mellitus and its insulin mechanisms and treatment has been inspirational to many distinguished specialists in this field. He has founded the Geneva based European Federation for the study of Diabetes (EFSD) which serves diabetes researchers throughout the world helping humanity with meaningful discoveries that constitute the basis of many medical academicians and clinical practitioners.

His co-winner Professor Leliu Orci is recognized for his pioneer work in the area of islets of Langerhans specially the beta cells. His research resulted in the practice of transplanting islets and the immune cytochemistry of beta cells towards better understanding of their structure and their psychological functions. This in turn led to enrichment of our knowledge about pancreatic hormones.

Finally, The Prize for science on the topic of biochemistry is awarded to Dr. Michael J. Berridge (UK) for his remarkable achievement in the field of cellular biochemistry. In particular, he discovered a new signal regulating, and responsible for regulation of various cell activities. This discovery proves to be a breakthrough triggering worldwide attention to its role in understanding all aspects of cell activities during health and disease . This knowledge is of immense benefit to mankind.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate our thanks to Your Royal Highness for your patronage to this event on behalf of The Custodian of The Two Holy Mosques.

Thank you.