

Announcement

The Secretariat General of King Faisal International Prize Deliberations of the Selection Committees of King Faisal International Prize for 1999 (30 December 1998-5 January 1999)

The Selection Committees of King Faisal International Prize, in its five branches for the Service to Islam; Islamic Studies; Arabic Literature; Medicine; and Science, convened a series of meetings in the period 30 December 1998 to 5 January 1999 to reach the following decisions:

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| First: | <p>The Selection Committee of the Service to Islam awarded Mr. Jum'ah Al-Majid Abdullah (United Arab Emirates), for his great efforts in dissemination of knowledge and helping the needy, including the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Founding private charity schools accommodating about 5500 male and female students to obtaining free education.2. Establishing the College for Islamic and Arab Studies to provide undergraduate and post-graduate studies for over 2000 students (male and female) for free.3. Establishing Jum'ah Al-Majid Center for Culture and Heritage, an important cultural center providing researchers with free services.4. Supporting scholarships for students to study abroad; and establishing schools in many developing countries in the Islamic world.5. Providing financial assistance to several Islamic cultural centers throughout the world.6. Contribution to the establishment of Bait Al-Khair Society as a philanthropic agency supporting poor households in UAE. |
| Second: | <p>The Selection Committee of the Prize of Islam Studies unanimously awarded this year prize on Contributions to the Study and Authentication of the Prophet's Sayings to Sheikh Mohammed Nasir Ad-Din Al-Albani (Syria) in recognition of his research resulting in over one hundred books, with particular emphasis on the following titles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Irwa al-Ghalil (on how to verify Prophet's Sayings)2. Series of Sound Sayings of the Prophet3. Series of Weak Sayings of the Prophet4. Editing of the Mishkat Al-Masabih by At-Tibrizi5. The Minor Collection of Sound Sayings and Its Supplement6. The Minor Collection of Weak Sayings and Its Supplement <p>Sheikh Al-Albani was a prominent scholar of a distinguished school of thought with contributions that enriched the discipline and whose books are referred to by researchers in the Prophet's life.</p> |

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| <p>Third:</p> | <p>The Selection Committee of the Arabic Language and Literature decided to award two co-winners for this year's prize on the topic of "Comparative Studies of Arabic and Other Literatures in Terms of Theoretical and Applied Aspects".</p> <p>The co-winners were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Dr. Makarim A. Al-Ghamri (Egypt); and 2) Dr. Said A. Allouche (Morocco). <p>Dr. Al-Ghamri has been one of the pioneer researchers in the Arabic-Russian comparative literature. She achieved her research work spanning a long period of time and mastering the tools of a professional researcher. She published an ample number of studies relevant to comparative literature, such as her book, "Arabic and Islamic Influences in the Russian Literature", and her title, "Russian Novel in the Nineteenth Century" in addition to her research and translations from Russian. It is true that her book on the Arabic and Islamic influences in the Russian literature was the first comprehensive scientific study to document Arabic and Islamic influences that were apparent in the Russian literary production in the 19th century. In this study, she uncovered that great Russian literary figure were influenced by the Arabic and Islamic heritage. In fact, this book is undoubtedly unique in its field with respect to its originality and its concern with the applied dimension. On this basis, the literary production of Dr. Al-Ghamri is a real and distinct addition to comparative literature.</p> <p>Dr. Allouche is specialist in the general theories of comparative literature and application of its methods, particularly in the field of the influence and impact amongst Arabic and French literatures. His book, "Components of the Comparative Literature in the Arab World" is an important work that researches and evaluates efforts of Arab researchers in comparative literature. In this book, as well as in other studies, Dr. Allouche is a thorough researcher grounding his conclusions in inference and examination. His scientific writings indicate reliance on primary sources of contemporary scholars in Western comparative literature; thus, these writings are a methodological practice depicting a succinct image of the history of comparative literature in terms of its topics, methods and figures.</p> |
| <p>Fourth:</p> | <p>The Selection Committee of King Faisal International Prize for Medicine for 1999 decided to award the following co-winners on the topic of "Allergies":</p> <p>Dr. Patrick G. Holt (Australia); and Dr. Stephen T. Holgate (UK), for their pioneer, distinguished and prolific research on allergic diseases.</p> <p>Dr. Holt was a Senior Research Fellow at the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia, a member of the Immunology Scientific Advisory Board of Entelos Inc., and an Adjunct Professor at the Department of Microbiology at the University of Western Australia.</p> <p>His research focused on the cellular and molecular aspect of respiratory allergies and the mechanisms regulating immunological responses to inhaled allergens. Such research efforts were considered a paradigm shift providing new perspectives on causes and genesis of allergic respiratory diseases with possibility of evolving strategies towards prevention in childhood.</p> <p>Dr. Holgate, Clinical Professor of Immuno-pharmacology at Southampton</p> |

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| | <p>University, UK, is one of the leading authorities in the area of allergy. His research focused on the pathogenesis of asthma over the life-course, utilizing many approaches to study this disease including epidemiology, genetics, pathology, microbiology and immunology, pharmacology and experimental medicine. This research has informed guidelines on asthma management and has identified and validated novel therapeutic targets. His research also included the genesis, inflammatory and hereditability of asthma.</p> |
| Fifth: | <p>The Selection Committee of King Faisal International Prize for Science for 1999 awarded Dr. Ryoji Noyori (Japan), and Dr. Dieter Seebach (Germany) for their fruitful contributions in modern organic synthesis chemistry and its uses.</p> <p>Dr. Noyori, Professor at Nagoya University in Japan, conducted pioneer research on organic synthesis and homogeneous catalysis via organo-metallic chemistry. He and his research team discovered the remarkable utility of supercritical carbon dioxide as a medium for homogeneous catalysis. Later, he devised practical, environmentally sound methods for olefin epoxidation and alcohol oxidation using aqueous matter, whose utility is highlighted by the direct conversion of cyclohexene to adipic acid.</p> <p>Whereas Dr. Seebach, Professor of organic chemistry at Swiss Federal Institute in Zurich, Switzerland, has several achievements, including development of new synthetic methods (such as umpolung of reactivity, use of organometallic derivatives, of aliphatic nitro-compounds, of small rings, and of tartaric acid, and the peptides).</p> |
| | <p>The Selection Committee decided that themes for 2000's prizes would be as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As regards the prize for Islamic Studies, the theme would be, "The Spread and Cultural Impact of Islam Outside the Arab World"; 2. As regards the prize for Arabic Literature and Arabic Language, the theme would be, "Early Arab Literary Critics"; 3. As regards the prize for medicine, the theme would be, "Ageing"; and 4. With respect to the prize for science, the theme would be, "Biology". |