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Subject of the Clipping: 'King Faisal Prize enjoys world recognition' Two eminent scientists attending the selection committee meetings for 1999 King Faisal International Prize for Science have expressed their high regards for the prestigious prize which has gained international reputation due to its impartiality, honesty and usefulness of the subject. The two scientists in chemistry, Prof. Akbar Montaser from George Washington University, Washington D.C. USA and Prof. Zafar Muhammad Iqbal, from Punjab University, Lahore, Pakistan, said that the King Faisal International Prize is recognized worldwide and is next to Nobel Prize.

'King Faisal Prize enjoys world recognition'

By FURQAN AHMED
Riyadh Daily Staff

RIYADH – Two eminent scientists attending the selection committee meetings for the King Faisal International Prize for Science for 1999, have expressed their high regards for this prestigious prize which has gained international reputation due its impartiality, honesty and usefulness of the subject.

This year's subject for the science award is chemistry. The two scientists in chemistry, Prof. Akbar Montaser, Ph.D., from George Washington University, Washington DC, USA and Prof. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, Ph.D., from Punjab University, Lahore, Pakistan, said: "The King Faisal International Prize is recognized worldwide, and is next to Nobel Prize, which is over 100 years old.

The scientists also expressed their happiness at being been associated with the evaluation of candidates for the prize this year, particularly in the subject of chemistry, in which they have spent 25 to 30 years respectively, and have collectively supervised hundreds of researches so far in the fields relating to chemistry.

Prof. Montaser is known for his distinguished accomplishments, for over 20 years, in applying optical and mass spectroscopic measurements for chemical analysis, especially trace analysis.

Prof. Montaser is editor of two editions of a voluminous book, entitled *Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICPMS)*. This compilation of researches in chemistry has been described as an "excellent source of information on the fundamentals, instrumentation, methodologies, and applications of *ICPMS*, by an eminent professor, James D. Winefordner, Graduate Research Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Indiana.

Prof. Montaser said the field of chemistry is unfolding numerous areas of innovations and investigations for scientists. "Challenges to improve *ICPMS* are being addressed by researchers around the world," he noted.

On the King Faisal International Prize for Science, which was introduced by the prize committee in 1982, Prof. Montaser said: "The very fact that this prize has been won by eminent world scientists like Prof. Zuwail Ahmed and others in the past, speaks volume of its recognition and respect around the world. I am sure this prize has been contributing a lot to the efforts and researches to alleviating human sufferings and ensure brighter prospects of human life and well being."

Professor Montaser's internationally recognized in the ICP field is well evidenced by three extensive books (in a total of 2641 pages) that he co-authored and co-edited. These books have been very well received by the international community of analytical spectroscopists. Upon their introduction in 1987, 1992, and 1998, they became the most successful books ever published by VCH and VCH-Wiley and they are known as the "ICP bible"! In some, through his books, Professor Montaser has played a commanding role in the education of analytical community world wide.

Aside from his books, Professor Montaser has made a number of key contributions to the fundamental studies of new helium plasmas and novel sample introduction systems, and in the development of methodology and instrumentation that have significantly improved the quantitative capabilities of spectroanalytical techniques. He has attacked these areas in multi-faceted approach from theory to practice. His group was the first to publish accounts of the successful formation and operation of annular helium ICP discharges, mathematical models for predicting fundamental properties of helium ICP discharges, diagnostic studies of aerosols from nebulizers using light-scattering interferometry, and investigation of novel micro- and nano-nebulizers using innovative techniques for rapidly imaging spray structures.

On his part, Prof. Iqbal said that at present 35 Ph.D. students are working under his direct research supervision on various chemistry-related projects which are of great important for socio-economic, industrial and agricultural fields in his country.