

Presentation of the  
2015 King Faisal International Prize Winners  
By Professor  
**Abd Allah S. Al-Uthaimin**  
Secretary General of King Faisal International Prize

37<sup>th</sup> KFIP Awards Ceremony  
Sunday 1/3/2015 (10/5/1436H.)

*In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate*

*Praise be to Allah, the Sustainer of the Two Worlds, and Peace and Prayers be  
Upon our Prophet Muhammad and all his family, companions and followers*

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques  
King Salman Bin Abd Al-Aziz,  
Your Highnesses,  
Your Eminences,  
Your Excellencies,

Assalamu Alaikum.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this year's  
(2015G/1436H) winners of King Faisal International Prizes.

The King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam for  
this year (2015/1436H) has been awarded to Dr. Zakir Abdul  
Karim Naik (India), President of the Islamic Foundation in  
India. He was nominated for the Prize by the World Congress  
of Muslim Youth in Riyadh, and was awarded the Prize for  
the following considerations:

1. He is one of the most renowned non-Arabic speaking  
promulgators of Islam. His efforts include presentation of  
hundreds of public lectures and debates which explain the  
Islamic creed and defend its principles on the basis of the

Holy Quran and authentic *Sunna* (sayings and deeds of the Prophet Muhammad).

2. He founded an Islamic television channel broadcasting in English, and is the only T.V. channel in the world specialized in comparative religion. Its programs are also transmitted via several satellites in English, Urdu and Bangali languages.
3. He has also established a series of schools, initially in India and subsequently in some Arab and Islamic countries. These schools aim at preparing a generation of non-Arab Muslim preachers who are highly versed in Arabic language and Islamic religion.

I am pleased to invite Dr. Zakir to come forward to receive his Prize and deliver his speech.

The King Faisal International Prize for Islamic Studies in the topic of (*Cultural Heritage of Al-Madinah Al-Munawwarah*) for this year (2015G/ 1436H) has been awarded to Dr. Engineer Abdulaziz Bin Abdulrahman Kaki (Saudi Arabia), Consultant, Al-Madinah Al-Munawwarah Development Commission. He was nominated for the Prize by Taiba University and Al-Madinah Al-Monawwara Research and Studies Center (of King Abd Al-Aziz Foundation for Research and Archives).

He was awarded the Prize for his distinguished efforts in studying the cultural heritage of Al-Madinah Al-Munawwarah, particularly his multi-volume text on the architectural and historic landmarks of Al-Madinah Al-Munawwarah, especially volume 7 dealing with the foundations and characteristics of the ancient architectural fabric of the city. In this research, he combined cultural dimensions with field work and supported

his study with various illustrations including old and modern images, maps and diagrams, making it a major reference in this field.

I am pleased to invite Dr. Kaki to come forward to receive his Prize and deliver his speech.

The King Faisal International Prize for Medicine in the topic of (Intestinal Microflora and Human Health) for this year (2015/1436H) has been awarded to Professor Jeffrey Ivan Gordon (USA), Dr. Robert Glaser Distinguished University Professor and Director of the Centre of Genome Sciences and Systems Biology at Washington University, St Louis, USA. He was nominated for the Prize by the German National Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina.

Professor Gordon was awarded the Prize in recognition of his seminal work on the role of the intestinal microbiome in human health. He was able to elucidate the metabolic processes and genetic basis of mutually beneficial relationships between man and microorganisms in the human gut. His innovative research has provided major breakthroughs into the influence of intestinal microbiota on postnatal development, physiology and illness susceptibility in humans, and has thus enhanced our understanding of the pathogenesis of complex diseases such as obesity. His research has also opened opportunities for novel gut microbiome-directed treatments to improve human health.

I am pleased to invite Professor Sherif Karam to come forward to receive the Prize on behalf of Professor Gordon and deliver his speech.

The King Faisal International Prize for Science in (Chemistry) for this year (2015/1436H) has been awarded jointly to Professor Michael Grätzel (Switzerland), Professor and Director of the Laboratory of Photonics and Interfaces (Institute of Physical Chemistry), Swiss Federal Institute of Technology and Professor Omar Mwanne Yaghi (USA), Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of California, Berkeley, USA.

Professor Michael Grätzel was nominated for the Prize by King Saud University, and is recognized for his foundational and practical discoveries in the development of photo-electrochemical systems for solar energy conversion. His world-famous Grätzel solar cells are simple and relatively inexpensive to manufacture, and they possess unique practical properties including flexibility and transparency. Professor Grätzel's work has had and will continue to have a major impact on the practical realization of solar-energy conversion.

I am pleased to invite Professor Grätzel to come forward to receive his Prize and deliver his speech.

Professor Omar Yaghi was nominated for the Prize by King Saud University and King Abd Al-Aziz City for Science and Technology. He has made seminal contributions in the field of metal organic frameworks (MOFs). In the last two decades, he developed MOFs through innovative approaches to construct novel materials and explored their applications in various fields, including encapsulation of bio-molecules, and capturing of gases such as carbon dioxide and hydrogen. His

perseverance, creativity, technical skills and deep understanding of molecular architecture and reactions have contributed substantially towards further development in this field of research and have led into new and exciting directions based on developing novel strategies and brilliant designs that captured the world's attention.

I am pleased to invite Professor Yaghi to come forward to receive his Prize and deliver his speech.

Distinguished Guests,

The General Secretariat of King Faisal International Prize expresses its deep thanks and gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abd Al-Aziz, for sponsoring this ceremony, and congratulates the winners of this year's prizes for a well deserved recognition. Thanks are also extended to our distinguished guests for sharing this happy event with us. Special appreciation and thanks are due to all of those who cooperated with us during the nomination, refereeing and selection processes and the organization of this ceremony.

May Allah assist and support those working towards the welfare of humanity.

Assalamu Alaikum, and may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you.