

PRESS RELEASE
WINNERS ANNOUNCED
2007/1427H KING F AISAL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE
FOR
SERVICE TO ISLAM

Riyadh, 16 January 2007, HRH Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, Crown Prince, Deputy Premier, Minister of Defense and Aviation and Inspector General and President of the High Committee for Islamic Da'wa announced the winner of the King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam. The Prize has been awarded to:

H.E. President
Mintimer Sharipovich Shaimiev (Russia)
President of the Republic of Tatarstan

H.E. President Shaimiev is awarded the Prize in recognition of his distinguished services to Islam, including his steadfast efforts to revive Islamic culture in the Republic of Tatarstan, promote Islamic teachings and values among its population, and rebuild Islamic mosques destroyed during previous eras. Today, more than 1000 mosques have been rebuilt, including 40 in the capital city of Kazan, whereas only four mosques had remained during the communist rule of that country. President Shaimiev's reign has also witnessed the inauguration of the *Ghol Sharif* mosque, a masterpiece of Islamic architecture, as well as the printing of the Holy Qur'an and major Islamic books, inception of numerous Islamic schools and societies and establishment of the Russian Islamic University which teaches in Russian, Tatarian and Arabic languages. The president is also acknowledged for pursuing wise policy that helped consolidate rapport and peaceful coexistence among members of the population, and culminated in a discernible economic and cultural development of that country.

Note to Editor:

- Over the past 29 years, a total of 34 individuals or institutions from 18 different countries have been recognized by the King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam.