

## Announcement

### The Secretariat General of King Faisal International Prize Deliberations of the Selection Committees of King Faisal International Prize for 1998 (3-6 January 1998)

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 on 3-6 January 1998 to reach the following decisions:

First:	<p>The Selection Committee of the Prize for Service to Islam awarded Mr. Abdou Diouf (Senegal), former president for his great efforts in terms of what follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Commissioning a rational urban planning; developing his nation and realizing ambitions of his Muslim country.</li><li>2. Substantial contributions to conferences of the Islamic summit and advocating Islamic concerns at international forums.</li><li>3. Encouragement of Arabic and Islamic educational system, and organizing Islamic international meetings in his country.</li><li>4. Supporting scientific and cultural cooperation between his country and the Arab states and his strong support provided to the Senegal and the Western Scholars Society.</li></ol>
Second:	<p>The Selection Committee of the Islam Studies unanimously awarded this year prize on The Studies on Libraries or the Evolution of Islamic Book Craft to two co-winners:</p> <p>Dr. Abd Al-Sattar Al-Halwaji (Egypt); and Dr. Yahia M. bin Junaid (Saudi Arabia).</p> <p>Dr. Al-Halwaji, on the one side, had been awarded the prize in recognition of his efforts in libraries. Indeed, his title, "Arabic Manuscript" is a distinct work in the field of the book industry among Muslims. In this work, he reviewed the origin of the manuscript and its evolutionary factors as well as its industry in the first four centuries of Muslim history. He based his research on primary sources of data and benefited from literature review of specialized Arabic and foreign studies. He wrote his book in a neat style supplemented with accuracy of information documentation and exposition.</p> <p>Whereas Dr. Junaid was awarded the prize for his scientific and professional efforts in the discipline and science of libraries. This was demonstrated by numerous of his publications that were characterized by creativity. The most outstanding title he authored was, "Endowment and the Structure of the Arabic Library", an original work in which the author provided a distinguished scientific input. He stated the role of endowment in shaping the structure of Arabic library and the educational and cultural movement connected to that in various parts of the Islamic world in ten centuries. He extracted facts and texts relevant to endowments from their primary sources</p>

	along with an analytic study to confirm the impact.
Third:	The Selection Committee of the Arabic Language and Literature decided to withhold the prize for this year on the topic of Autobiography among Contemporary Arab Writers as the nominated entries were below the targeted standard despite the efforts extended to them.
Fourth:	<p>The Selection Committee of King Faisal International Prize for Medicine for 1998 decided to award the following co-winners on the topic, “Control of Communicable Diseases”:</p> <p>Dr. John L. Gerin (USA), Professor and Director of the Division of Molecular Virology and Immunology in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Georgetown University; and Dr. Robert H. Purcell (USA), Head of the Hepatitis Viruses Section of the Laboratory of Infectious Diseases at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in Bethesda, Maryland.</p> <p>The laureates were awarded the prize for their discovery of a number of hepatitis viruses, by detecting them, classifying their species and developing test devises for blood detection of such viruses, and finally to develop vaccines for their control. The advancements of the two researchers were among the salient and most significant achievements in control of the hepatitis, which is the top most fatal infectious disease and the widely spread in the age.</p>
Fifth:	<p>The Selection Committee of King Faisal International Prize for Science for 1998 awarded Dr. Andrew J. Wiles (UK), Professor of Mathematics at Princeton University, as the winner for this year’s theme of Mathematics.</p> <p>Dr. Wiles was able to solve the so-called Fermat's Last Theorem, which was one of the most legendary challenges in mathematics for over three centuries. The solution of the Fermat’s Theorem was a landmark in the set theory. The theorem was considered to be of great applied benefits in the last few years, including its use in the development of ciphers for computer networks such as the internet network with the advantage of maintaining safety and security. In addition, Dr. Wiles was able to make mathematics a popular topic by presenting interesting televised scientific programs on the Fermat's Last Theorem and its solution. These programs were very successful.</p>
	<p>The Selection Committee decided that themes for 1999’s prizes would be as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As regards the prize for Islamic Studies, the theme would be, “Contributions to the Study, Verification and Authentication of the Prophet’s Sayings”;</li> <li>2. As regards the prize for Arabic Literature and Arabic Language, the theme would be, “Comparative Studies of Arabic and Other Literatures: Theoretical and Applied Aspects”.</li> <li>3. As regards the prize for medicine, the theme would be, “Allergies”;</li> <li>and</li> <li>4. With respect to the prize for science, the theme would be, “Chemistry”.</li> </ol>

