In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate.
Peace and blessing upon our Prophet Mohammed, his kinship and companions all.

Your Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz,
Crown Prince, Deputy Premier and Head of the National Guard,
Your Highnesses,
Your Eminences and Excellencies,
Thinkers and Scientists,

It is my great pleasure to introduce to you the distinguished scholars who are the recipients of this year’s King Faisal International Prize.

The King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam is jointly awarded to His Eminence Sheikh Ali Al-Tantawi (a Saudi citizen) and His Excellency Sheikh Khurshid Ahmad (a Pakistani citizen, the Chairman of the International Foundation for Islamic Economic Studies at the Islamic University of Islamabad) in recognition of their services to Islam and Muslims.

Sheikh Ali Al-Tantawi was nominated by Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States, by the Muslim Youth World Symposium, and the King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals.

His Islamic endeavors are characterized by:

1. Being distinguished through incessant work and effort and contribution for sixty years in educational, cultural, judicial and social endeavors.

2. Unwavering struggle in the field of Islamic awareness, spreading Islamic thought and contribution to reform through lecturing, writing, broadcasting and publishing.

3. Vesting all he could in allaying suspicions and refuting heresies through discussion and debate and guiding others to Truth through judicious decisions and sincere preaching.
4. Uniqueness in his approach by creating a way of speaking and writing characterized by originality, ease and appeal to the hearts of his listeners, men, women, East and West.

Dr. Khurshid Ahmad was nominated by the Muslim Youth World Symposium and Islamic University in Pakistan.

His Islamic endeavors are characterized by:

1. Creating the Islamic Foundation in Leicester and presiding over it; it is an educational foundation and an Islamic Research Center dedication improving understanding of Islam.

2. Presiding over the International Foundation for Islamic Economic Studies in Pakistan, and his tangible Islamic effort within the Scientific Advisory Council of the Comparative Political and Economic Studies at Georgetown University.

3. Leadership of the Islamic University in Pakistan and founding of its Muslim Youth Movement.

4. Extensive participation in various parts of the world through lectures and readings in Islamic centers of preaching and refuting adversaries.

5. Distinction in participation in regional and international Islamic economic symposia; he has become an authority and an adviser to universities in the field of Islamic economic affairs.

This year’s King Faisal International Prize in Islamic Studies, whose subject financial transactions under Islamic law, is jointly awarded to Dr. Prof. Al-Siddiq Mohammad Al-Amin Al-Darir (a Sudanese citizen and professor of Islamic law, Faculty of Law at Khartoum University) and Dr. Muhammad Omar Abdulkarim Shabra (a Saudi citizen and economic advisor to the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency).

Dr. Al-Siddiq Al-Darir was nominated by the African Islamic Centre in Khartoum. This nomination was seconded by the Academic Research Department of the Khartoum University.

He receives the prize for what he achieved in his book, “Risk and its Influence on Contracts in Islamic Jurisprudence” in the form of correctness and precise investigation of scholars’ views, and in-depth study of the problems facing the contemporary world, arriving at productive conclusions demonstrating the futility of non-Islamic solutions in addressing today’s economic problems, and Islam’s ability to resolve them.

Dr. Shabra was nominated by the Muslim Youth World Symposium, and Hamdard Foundation in Pakistan. He receives the Prize for what he achieved in his book “Towards
a Fair Monetary System”, and his deep understanding of Shari’a principles and modern financial problems; he arrives at clear conclusions demonstrating the deterioration of the fiscal system used in materially developed countries, and the errors of the theory on which it is based. He also showed that Islamic Shari’a is capable of resolving modern problems fairly and for the benefit of all mankind.

The King Faisal International Prize in Arabic Literature for short stories, is awarded to Professor Yahya Haqqi, an Egyptian citizen; he was nominated by:

The Arabic Language Department at King Saud University
The Arabic Language Faculty at the Imam University
The Faculty of Literature, University of Kuwait
The Faculty of Literature, University of the UAE
The Faculty of Literature, University of Cairo
The Faculty of Literature, Ain Shams University
The Supreme Culture Council in Egypt

Professor Yahya Haqqi is a renowned pioneer of the short story in modern Arabic literature. His stories have gone through different artistic stages evolving with social changes and the changes in the literary trends and schools, thus lending variety to their experiences and multiplying their imagery and forms.

Through all these changes, he remained faithful to his belief that art has no value without faith and bonding to drive life and to generate beauty and hope. He also was eager to retain his elegant Arabic style which combines the solidity of tradition with the ease of contemporary language and a large measure of sensitive poetics; by so doing he demonstrated the Arabic language’s abilities in analysis, description and depiction.

Since the beginning of his literary career he has guarded an intimate affinity to his literary contemporaries, and celebrates in some of his works the first wave of pioneers; he took under his wing many developing talents until they graduated to become renowned short story writers themselves, thus combining the gift of great talent with the mission of a loyal mentor.

This year’s King Faisal International Prize for medicine on the subject of schistosomiasis, is jointly awarded to:

Professor Andre Capron, a French citizen, the Director of the Centre for Parasite Immunology and Biology in the Pastur Institute of Lille, and

Dr. Anthony Edward Butterworth, a British citizen, a member of the external staff of the British Medical Research Council in London.

In recognition of the creativity and quality of their work and their contribution to the understanding of the mechanism by which man acquires immunity to the disease “Schistosoma mansoni”. This discovery paved the way for many are benefit from
molecular biological techniques in their quest for a vaccine, one of which is now nearing the stage of clinical trials. The research of each of the award winners has complemented the others, and they have collaborated on some studies.

Prof. Andre Capron was nominated by the Institute National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale and Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in Paris. His most outstanding contributions are:

1. Discovery of hitherto unknown forms of antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity involving the activation of monocytes, eosinophils and platelets by IgE complexes. These findings have important implications for schistosomiasis immunity in particular, and for immunology in general.

2. The application of this discovery to the development of vaccines with imminent applicability by making use of techniques he invented.

3. The identification of protective antigens by the use of monoclonal antibodies and nonspecific antisera produced by the immunization of animals. Among them, GP 38, now undergoing experiments to construct immunogenic peptides which can be used for human treatment.

4. The training of many researchers from different countries in the field of his researches which contributed to the enrichment of human thought and assisting in the progress and development of scientific research in the field of immunology, and participation in development of the World Health Organization and European Common Market Program for the tropical medicine.

5. Vast activities inside and outside France, and publication of many papers in international journals.

Dr. Butterwoth was nominated by the University of London and the University of Cambridge. His most outstanding contributions are:

1. The elucidation of the important role of eosinophils in human immunity to “Schistosomiasis mansoni” and the gaining of profound insights into eosinophil biology. Research in Kenya on animals and humans established the role for eosinophils in collaboration with IgG antibodies in the killing of the immature stages of schistosomiasis mansoni. He also discovered much about the various subpopulations of eosinophils, about how they become activated by various cytokines and how killing of the parasites in effected.

2. The proof that man develops specific acquired immunity to “Schistosomiasis mansoni”, as a result of repeated natural exposure to infection, and performing a series of elegantly designed and meticulously conducted field studies which proved that an acquired immunity does develop. It became possible recently to
identify antigens on the surface of the parasites that may lend themselves to the production of a protective vaccine.

3. The training of large numbers of researchers and technicians in the laboratory and the in the field. Among his most outstanding contributions in the advancement of medical science is his field work over the years in Kenya.

4. The publication of more than 120 studies and researchers in the field of immunology in general, and schistosomiasis in particular.

This year’s King Faisal International Prize for science on the subject of chemistry is jointly awarded to three scientists:

1. Professor Raymond Lemieux, a Canadian citizen, professor at Alberta University.

2. Professor Dr. Frank Cotton, a United States citizen, Professor of Chemistry and Director, Laboratory for Molecular Structure and Bonding, Texas A&M University.

3. Professor Dr. Mustafa Amr El-Sayed, a United States citizen of Egyptian origin, Professor at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Professor Lemieux was nominated by the University of Alberta, and he is considered the international leader in the field of carbohydrate chemistry, an area which plays a considerable role in many life processes. He was the first to synthesize sucrose. The Major impact of his work became apparent when he focused on the synthesis of oligosaccharides involved in fundamental cell-cell and antigen-antibody recognition reactions. Cell surface carbohydrates are involved in these interactions, conferring specificity on these reactions based on their precise chemical structure and conformation. Professor Lemieux is the first to synthesize such structures representing the antigenic determinants of blood groups and subgroups.

Dr. Cotton was nominated by the University of Texas. He is a world leader in inorganic chemistry. He is best known for his work on compounds containing multiple bonds in transition elements. He has created new molecules containing quadruple bonds among their metallic atoms. Dr. Cotton produced these new compounds and then examined them using x-ray crystallography, vibration spectroscopy, nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy and mass spectroscopy. He is also a pioneer of research in enzyme structures and function and the detailed study of their crystals. Moreover he has a remarkable innovative ability and intense productivity which allowed him to publish more than a thousand papers. His book on inorganic chemistry has been printed more than five times, was translated into fourteen languages and sold more than half a million copies. He is the most frequently cited living chemist.
Dr. Al-Sayed was nominated by King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, the University of the United Arab Emirates and the University of California. Professor Al-Sayed is one of the outstanding contemporary physical chemists. His high quality work has placed him in the forefront of contemporary spectroscopists. He elucidated reaction kinetics and specificities in complex chemical systems relevant to life processes. He also studied energy conversion and transfer, photosynthesis, photo-chemistry and the physico-chemical cycles undergone by the bacteriohodops in protein, thus enhancing our understanding of molecular mechanisms and kinetics for light energy storage. He developed the use of lasers in the picosecond range, and used time-analyzed Riemann spectroscopy.

Certain of the rules governing the reactions he studied have become known as Al-Sayed rules.

The General Secretariat for the King Faisal International Prize, in announcing these results, extends its sincere thanks to His Royal Highness the Crown Prince for his patronage of this ceremony. We also thank all present for accepting our invitation. We congratulate the prize winners, wishing everyone success and prosperity and close by thanking God.

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