Presentation of the 2001 King Faisal International Prize Winners

By Professor Abd Allah S. Al-Uthaimin
Secretary-General of King Faisal International Prize

Friday 16.2.2001 (22.11.1421H)

In the name of Allah
Praise be to Allah and peace and prayers be upon the Prophet Muhammad and his family, companions, and all his followers until Judgement Day

Your Royal Highness, Prince Abd Allah ibn Abd Al-Aziz,
The Crown Prince, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministry and Head of the National Guard
Your Royal Highnesses
Your Excellencies
Brothers and Sisters

Assalam Alaikum,

It gives me great pleasure to present the winners of the 2001 King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam, Arabic Literature, Medicine and, Science.

The King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam has been awarded to The Saudi Arabian High Commission for Donations to Bosnia-Herzegovina was nominated by King Saud University in Riyadh and has been awarded the Prize in recognition of its humanitarian efforts towards the beleaguered people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Established in 1992 during the war in Bosnia, the Commission has been able, even under difficult conflict conditions, to provide shelter, food, and medical supplies, as well as social and educational services to the
war-ravaged communities, and to assist in the reconstruction of homes and infrastructure.

The King Faisal International Prize for Arabic Literature (Studies Dealing with Modern Arabic Prose) has been awarded jointly to Professor Ibrahim A. Al-Saafin of Jordan, and Professor Mansour I. Al-Hazmi of Saudi Arabia.

Professor Ibrahim A. Al-Saafin is Professor in the Department of Arabic Language and Literature, Faculty of Arts, University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan and presently on secondment of Sharja University, UAE. He was nominated by University of Jordan and has been awarded the Prize in recognition of his contributions to the study of modern Arabic prose, including his numerous books and articles on the Arabic novel, short story and play, and his analysis of the Arabic narrative tradition through the centuries.

Professor Mansour I. Al-Hazmi is Emeritus Professor of Modern Arabic Literature, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and has been awarded the Prize in recognition of his contributions to the study of the modern Arabic historical novel and his pioneering role in researching the modern Saudi novel and short story.

The King Faisal International Prize for Medicine (Organ Transplantation) has been awarded jointly to Professor Sir Roy Yorke Calne of UK, Professor Norman Edward Shumway and Professor Thomas Early Starzl of USA.

Professor Sir Roy Yorke Calne is Emeritus Professor of Surgery, University of Cambridge, UK, and Yeoh Ghim Seng Professor of Surgery, National University of Singapore. He was nominated by University of Cambridge, UK, International Xenotransplantation Society and The Transplantation Society, USA. He was awarded the Prize in recognition of his pioneering research on the use of immunosuppressive drugs and other aspects of organ transplantation. Calne’s experimental and clinical research on these drugs, particularly cyclosporin, has paved the way for heart, lung, liver, pancreas and kidney transplantation to become standard procedures throughout the world, thereby benefiting huge numbers of patients.
Professor Norman Edward Shumway, Francis and Charles D. Field Emeritus Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery, University of Stanford, California, USA. He was nominated by King Fahd Centre for Cardiac Cardiology and Surgery, King Saud University, Saudi Heart Association, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, The Transplantation Society and International Xenotransplantation Society, USA. He has been awarded the Prize in recognition of his major contributions which formed the basis of the initiation and establishment of heart and heart-lung transplantations as clinical therapies for patients with end-stage cardiac or cardiopulmonary disease.

Professor Thomas Earl Starzl, Professor of Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and Director Emeritus of the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. He was nominated by University of Pittsburgh, International Xenotransplantation Society and The Transplantation Society, USA. He has been awarded the Prize in recognition of his pioneering work which has influenced all aspects of organ transplantation. Starzl was the first to develop successful surgical techniques for liver transplantation, and the first to introduce corticosteroids into clinical transplantation. He also pioneered the use of FK506 to prevent the rejection of liver, small bowel, and multiple visceral organ transplants.

The King Faisal International Prize for Science (Physics) has been awarded jointly to Professor Sajeev O. John of Canada, and Professor Chen Ning Yang of USA.

Professor Sajeev O. John, Professor of Physics, Department of Physics, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. He was nominated by Department of Physics, University of Toronto, Canada. He has been awarded the Prize in recognition of his major role in the elucidation of the basic principles of photonic band gap materials. This new technology, which involves the transmission of information by optical means, could eventually lead to the development of faster, cheaper and more versatile communication devices.

Professor Chen Ning Yang, Albert Einstein Professor Emeritus, State University of New York, Stony Brook, Long Island, and Distinguished Professor-al-large, Chinese University of Hong Kong. He was nominated by State University of New York, USA. He has been
awarded the Prize in recognition of his profound contributions to physics and his part in the formulation of the non-abelian gauge theory (Quantum Yang–Mills Theory) that lays the foundation for the unification of all interactions in nature.

On behalf of the General Secretariat of King Faisal International Prize, I would like to extend our utmost thanks to his Royal Highness Prince Abd Allah bin Abd Al-Aziz, representative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, for sponsoring this ceremony, and to all of you for kindly attending the occasion. I would also like to thank everyone who cooperated with the General Secretariat of King Faisal International Prize during the various stages of nomination, refereeing, and final selection.

I conclude by extending warm congratulations to the winners.

May almighty Allah guide and support those engaged in virtuous deeds. May Almighty Allah help our laureates in their endeavours to serve humanity, enrich human knowledge, and reduce human suffering.

May I also thank all of you for accepting our invitation to share this occasion with us.

Best wishes and assalam alikum.