PRESS RELEASE
WINNERS ANNOUNCED
2000/1420H KING FAISAL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE
FOR
SERVICE TO ISLAM

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, December 18..........Al-Azhar, a renowned and deeply rooted Islamic institution where numerous, eminent Islamic Scholars had taught through the centuries, has been recognized with the award of the 2000 King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam. The Prize is one of five categories in an international awards program established by the King Faisal Foundation.

The award comes in recognition of Al-Azhar's outstanding contributions and services to Islam and Muslims, including its role which span more than a thousand year in attracting thousands of religious scholars and students from all parts of the Islamic World. Al-Azhar, has played a major role in preserving Islamic and Arabic heritage. It resisted the Crusaders, Tartars and imperialists through the centuries, and is particularly known for its challenge to Napoleonic campaigns. It has also resisted British attempts of Westernization in Egypt. Al-Azhar has also contributed enormously to the spreading of Islam, Islamic knowledge and Arabic Language, through its University and its branches, as well as other Azharic institutions, in Egypt and abroad.