Riyadh, 18 Jan. 1990: The Selection Committee of the 1990 King Faisal International Prize for Arabic Literature (Topic: Short Novels), has announced today that it has awarded the Prize to Mr. Yahia Haqqi (Egypt) in appreciation of his outstanding contributions combining talent with intellect and experience. This is reflected in the high quality and originality of his short stories.

Mr. Haqqi is a well-known pioneer of the short novel in contemporary Arabic literature. His work comes across different stages coinciding with the social shifts and the literary genres and orientations. Thus he writes about various experiences and in different forms; some of his stories monitor society and the status of individuals; others probe hidden aspects of the psyche of his characters, and yet others comprise a mixture of realistic and psychological trends with an apparent tendency towards surrealism.

In all these changes, Mr. Haqqi remains convinced that arts have no value unless they reflect a belief and give beauty and hope in life. He is also concerned with the great poetic essence of the Arabic language and it capability to analyze, describe and to depict.

From the outset of his literary career, Mr. Haqqi maintained an intimate rapport with his contemporaries. In some of his writings, he also celebrates the previous generations of pioneers. Likewise, he sponsors many sprouting talents in their careers as short story writers. He has always been loyal to the generosity of his great talent and his mission as a committed mentor.