Riyadh, 12 Jan. 1988: The Selection Committee of the 1988 King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam has announced today that it awarded the Prize to Dr. Ahmad Domocao Alonto (Philippines) for his enormous efforts to promote the Islamic cause within and outside the Philippines and outside, spanning social, economic, scientific and political areas.

Dr. Alonto’s remarkable activities in these areas included:

1. His leading role in the Philippines’ Islamic Renaissance, and his contribution to the establishment of numerous Islamic institutions for public awareness of Islam as a creed, a doctrine and a conduct.

2. Formation of the Mindanao Development Authority with the objective of boosting the economic standard of Filipino Muslims, and mobilizing the resources of his nationals to counter the roots of weakness and vulnerability.

3. His efforts that culminated in the establishment of the University of Mindanao and its global role in the Islamic regions.

4. His successful efforts to convince the central government to enfranchise Muslims in electing their local representatives instead of being selected by the Government. As a result of his effort, the Government also recognized Muslims’ holidays and events and endorsed the recruitment of Muslims to posts in the upper echelon of civil and military services. Dr. Alonto also sustained great efforts towards the autonomy of the Islamic provinces and the formation of their judicial councils with mandates to develop the Islamic communities and maintain their heritage.

5. Moreover, Dr. Alonto has authored a number of valuable books and translated, into Maranao vernacular, certain Islamic studies> He also participated in several conferences at the national and international levels.