

Speech of Professor  
**Dieter Seebach**  
Co-Winner of King Faisal International Prize  
For Science 1999/1419H.

Tuesday 2.3.1999 (14.11.1419H)

Your Royal Highness, Prince Sultan Ibn Abd Al-Aziz,  
Your Royal Highnesses,  
Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,

It is with great joy and pride that I stand here to express my gratitude for having been chosen, together with my dear colleague Ryoji Noyori, to receive this year's King Faisal International Prize for Science.

I thank the King Faisal International Prize for this award which is the greatest distinction and honour I have ever received.

There is always a group of worthy candidates, even for a prize of this category, and therefore I consider myself a lucky man tonight.

The contributions to my science, chemistry, for which I am awarded the Prize have, of course, not been achieved single-handedly. Unlike our fellow King Faisal International Prize winners of the Arts and Humanities, we - experimental scientists - have to have large groups of co-workers to test our ideas. Furthermore, interdisciplinary collaboration is a prerequisite at the forefront of science while extensive funding is inevitably needed to carry out research. I sincerely thank my former and present graduate students and postdoctoral fellows for their dedication and enthusiasm. I also thank the universities, national institutions, and companies in Switzerland and Germany for generously housing and financing our research, and I thank my

parents and my teachers. Last but not least, I thank my family for their support, understanding, patience, and love.

I am also grateful to all those who were involved in the nomination and selection process for the Prize and in the arrangement of our visit to Riyadh and the ceremony.

I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate the King Faisal Foundation for its vision to establish an eminent international prize, which is an important contribution to inter-cultural understanding and a building block for a more peaceful world.

In closing, I want to convey my congratulations to the Royal Family and to their country on the occasion of this year's 100th anniversary of the foundation of Saudi Arabia. I wish you continuous wisdom as custodians of the holy shrines of Islam, and also as custodians of one of the richest known gas and oil resources on our planet, the most valuable starting material for future generations to do chemistry, and thus for the survival of mankind.

God bless you all.