

Acceptance Speech of  
**PROFESSOR CHEN NING YANG**

Co-Winner of the 2001  
King Faisal International Prize for Science

Friday 16 February 2001 (22 Dhu Al-Qedah 1421H)

Your Royal Highness, Prince Abd Allah bin Abd Al-Aziz  
The Crown Prince, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and  
Head of the National Guard  
Your Royal Highnesses  
Your Excellencies  
Distinguished Guests

It is a great honor to receive the King Faisal International Prize.

The work for which I was nominated for the Prize is related to the concept of symmetry. That concept is very, very old in all early human societies. Gradually the concept permeated all spheres of cultural activities: literature, music, philosophy, mathematics, painting, sculpture, architecture, etc. Islamic architecture is especially noted for the extensive use of beautiful and intricate symmetrical patterns. I am thus pleased to receive this recognition in an Islamic country, and I shall give in my paper some examples of Islamic symmetrical patterns in architecture together with their mathematical meanings.

I was born and grew up in China. As a young adult I moved to the USA where I have spent two-thirds of my life. China and the West represent two of the ancient and great cultures of mankind. I am happy that this trip to Saudi Arabia allows me to experience in person another of the ancient and great cultures of the world.