

Acceptance Speech of
His Highness Shaikh Dr.
Sultan Ibn Muhammad Al-Qasimi

Ruler of Sharja - Winner of the 2002
King Faisal International Prize
For Service to Islam

Saturday 9 March 2002 (25 Dhu Al-Hajlah 1422H)

Praise be to Allah and prayers and peace be upon the Messenger of Allah

Your Royal Highness, Prince Sultan Ibn Abd Af-Aziz
Second Deputy Premier, Minister of Defense and Aviation
And Inspector General
Your Royal Highnesses
Your Excellencies
Distinguished Guests

Al-Salam alaikum,

It is a great occasion that we meet tonight in the name of service to Islam and Muslims, and that the meeting takes place in this noble land, the cradle of Islam and the birthplace of the Prophet Muhammad, peace and prayers be upon him.

May the Almighty Allah have mercy upon the late King Faisal Ibn Abd AL-Aziz AL-Saud, whose magnanimous deeds speak for themselves and whose services to Islam and Muslims as witnessed by tonight's gathering - are countless.

Dear Brothers.

Our values and beliefs derive from the teachings of Islam, and whatever we accomplish is dedicated to the cause of that religion. We believe in rapport, cooperation and compassion between Muslims, as the Prophet - peace and prayers be upon him - has taught us that the unity and sympathy between Muslims is like that of different parts of the human body, if any one of them ailed, the rest are summoned to help with fever and vigilance.

Our gathering tonight exemplifies our pledge to work together for the progress of the Islamic nation and therefore this is not an honour for a particular individual but for all of us hand in hand. May Allah help award us to do all that we can to support Islam and spread its message.

Finally, I would like to thank the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abd Al-Aziz, and His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn Abd Al-Aziz, Second Deputy Premier, Minister of Defense and Aviation and Inspector General, for their auspices of this festival. May Allah help every body in their strife towards the betterment and progress of our nation.

Al-Salam alaikum.