

Translation

Acceptance Speech of
SHAIKH YUSUF BIN JASIM BIN MUHAMMAD AL-HIDJI
Co-Winner of the 2006
King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam

Monday 3 April 2006 (5.3.1427H.)

In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Praise be to Allah, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the worlds, and may peace and prayers be upon His most noble messenger Muhammad and his family, companions and followers till the Day of Judgment.

Your Royal Highness, Prince Sultan Ibn Abd Al Aziz
Crown Prince, Deputy Premier,
Minister of Defense and Aviation and Inspector General
Your Highnesses
Your Excellencies
Distinguished Guests

Assalam Alaikum.

Allow me first to cherish the role played by the monarch, government and people of Saudi Arabia in serving Islam and Muslims throughout the world. May the Almighty Allah support them and provide them with the power to sustain and augment that role.

Our Prophet Muhammad, may peace and prayers be upon him, taught us that: "He who does not thank people does not thank Allah." I would like therefore to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to those who nominated me to this prestigious award. I find no way to express myself but to borrow from what the Prophet's companions used to say in similar situations: "Oh, Allah. Make me better than what they think of me, don't punish me for what they say of me and forgive me for what they don't know of me."

Distinguished Guests,

The honor bestowed upon me tonight does not go to my person but to the International Islamic Charitable Organization and to every one working in humanitarian and philanthropic fields throughout the Arab and Islamic worlds. This award emphasizes the support of King Faisal Philanthropic Foundation to institutions of Islamic charity that provide humanitarian assistance and relief to impoverished and destitute people, treat their sick, care for their orphans, educate their illiterate and support their economic activities to the extent that saves them the humiliation of stretching their hands out for material help.

Distinguished Guests,

Receiving this profound honor places a heavy burden upon my shoulders and commits me to trying to do more, particularly in the light of the increasing need to sustain and expand humanitarian activities in order to cope with increasing poverty in many Arab and Islamic countries, as well as the recent string of natural disasters, the latest of which being the massive earthquake in Pakistan.

Distinguished Guests,

Humanitarian institutions – including the International Islamic Charitable Organization which I am honored to preside – are already shouldering a massive responsibility while facing great challenges, including, on one hand, inadequate facilities, limited resources and increasing pressures, and on the other hand increasing needs of impoverished Muslim communities. The prestigious King Faisal International Prize has a tremendous impact not only by recognizing achievements of scientists, researchers, intellectuals and servants of Islam but also by encouraging them to continue and increase their efforts to help achieve progress and prosperity of our nation. May Allah the Gracious guide the Foundation's patrons, support them and reward them for their deeds. I conclude by announcing that the monetary value of my prize shall go to orphans and the poor.

Assalam alaikum