

Translation

Acceptance Speech of

THE CUSTODIAN OF THE TWO HOLY MOSQUES

KING ABD ALLAH IBN ABD AL-AZIZ

Winner of the 2008

King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam

Sunday 09 March 2008 (1.3.1429H)

In the Name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Praise be to Allah and Peace and Prayers be upon our Prophet, Muhammad

Brothers and Sisters,

Frankly, the first thing that came to my mind when I heard of my nomination to the Prize commemorating my brother, King Faisal, may Allah have mercy on him, for Service to Islam, was to apologize because there are so many Muslims whose feats and sacrifices make them worthier than me of this distinction. However, my confidence in the prudence and discern of the Prize's Committee, have made me hesitate in taking that decision. With the guidance of Allah, I decided to accept the Award, not for my person but on behalf of all Muslim men and women who have served Islam silently, away from publicity and without waiting to be rewarded.

Brothers and Sisters,

The Muslim scientist in his laboratory, the soldier defending his land, the preacher calling for moderation, the worker resisting temptations, the righteous and conscientious judge and the student striving to acquire knowledge – all of these serve Islam. In their name, wherever they are in the lands of Islam, I accept this honor and dedicate it to them all.

I conclude by thanking the Foundation for selecting me, praying to the Almighty to help me shoulder the responsibility of serving first my religion, then my country and my family - the people of Saudi Arabia and the Muslims at large.

Assalam Alaikum.