

Dr. Mohammad Rashad Al-Himzai's Speech
Winner of King Faisal's International Prize
In Arabic Language and Literature (Co-winner) For 2008,1428H
Sunday, 9/3/2008 - 1/3/1429H

In the name of God, most gracious, most merciful.
Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Abdallah bin AbdulAziz,
His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sultan bin AbdulAziz, Minister of defence and
aviation and general inspector,
Their Royal Highness the Princes,
Their Honor and Excellencies,
AssalamuAlaykomwarahmatullahiwabarakatu

It is an honor for me to greet you in King Faisal charitable foundation, in this sacred
and giving land. Our foundation has promised to award its prize for scholars all over
the world, to honor them for all they had given from works that deserve valuation in
sciences and arts, whether they are traditional or modern that serve humankind in all
places and all ages, for what they witness from projects and achievements, and what's
behind them from scientific and cultural promises. Moreover, I'm really happy to have
been awarded in half the prize specified for the year 1428H/2008 for Arabic
terminologies, and my deep thanks to the scientific committees that nominated my
works for the prize, and to the specialized committees that studied and evaluated them,
and gave me this honor to win the prize.

No doubt that issues pertaining to Arabic terminologies presented to us this year in
Arab Islamic countries, and at the head of it the land of the two holy mosques, or
outside them, are considered the mothers of sciences. For the Arab Muslims have
brought them in their prosperous ages to a very high level of care in all the fields of
sciences and arts, as a service to all nations, and our rich heritage is a witness to the
vast terminologies, from the metaphors in the holy Quran and the terminologies in the
prophetic Hadith and dictionaries, Grammar, astronomy, Mathematics, philosophy,

logic, and Engineering....etc. of which people in the past and the present, near or far

have benefited from.

Our foundation has promised to take care of the language issue periodically, especially terminologies in our modern age, for they are the key that helps us understand moving sciences and arts, and it established us with them in the present and the future, to assess our achievements in them, with a look to what we would need from promises and giving. And all modern Arab nations, at the head of them The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, have sought to make the terminology issue a primary science like all other primary sciences, at the national or Arab collective level, through various institutions like the Arab academies.

Within this domain, and relying on our Arab linguistic heritage, and what modern linguistics has achieved from theories and approaches, I took the initiative of installing the science of terminology in our university academic programs, I worked with Quranic expressions and lexicography expressions, and I produced a dictionary of modern Arab linguistics, a lexicon of modern lexicographical concepts, and a dictionary of civilization concepts in the Tunisian press, and a dictionary of international Aerospace terminologies in four languages (Arabic, English, French, and Spanish). I also produced studies and books related to these subjects for institutions appertaining to modern Arabic terminologies, especially for the Arab academies in Cairo and Damascus, in addition to works with the office of Arabization in Rabat which aims at Arabization and unifying terminologies, especially in the field of education and science. I also have to mention that I produced “a standardization methodology” for Arabic linguistics to overcome the problem of “Synonyms, contradictions, and overlapping”, which are issues that confront us within certain ratios (the terminology “telephone” has been translated into 12 terminologies!) and I reinforced the above mentioned by establishing the “Association of Arabic lexicography in Tunisia” in the year 1982 and I followed it up with the “lexicographical journal” on the basis that the lexicon is the source and target of terminologies.

I consider terminologies a nation by itself that requires efforts and scientific and financial support to establish pioneering projects that are promising scientifically and at the civilization level.

Wassalamualaykomwarahmatullahiwabarakatuh