

Acceptance Speech of
PROFESSOR ABDURRAHMAN HADJ-SALEH

Co-Winner of the 2010 King Faisal International Prize
For Arabic Language and Literature
32nd Awards Presentation Ceremony

Tuesday 9 March 2010 (23.3.1431H)

In the Name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate,

Your Majesty, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques,
King Abd Allah Ibn Abd Al-Aziz
HRH Prince Sultan Ibn Abd Al-Aziz
Crown Prince, Deputy Premier
Minister of Defense and Aviation and Inspector General
Your Highnesses
Your Excellencies
Distinguished Guests

Assalamu Alaikom,

Standing here tonight with these distinguished scholars, winners of the prize, is not only a profound honour to me personally but also to my country. I am particularly humbled to be the first Algerian to win this prize and I pray to God that other Algerian scholars and scientists earn it in the coming years.

How can I not be proud now that I have joined an illustrious group of intellectuals and scientists who have won the prize this year and in previous years - a prize that testifies to their excellence, intellect and creativity, and recognizes their contributions to the welfare of humanity.

The patrons of this Prize must be praised for providing a powerful incentive for intellectuals and researchers worldwide to contribute through their intellectual endeavors, discoveries and inventions towards a better life for mankind. The need for advanced science and technology in developing countries cannot be over-stated and I hope

that these nations move forward to join the developed world in the road to innovation, discovery and invention.

For this to happen, we aspire for global collaboration, training and wide dissemination of scientific culture in the developing countries. We need to encourage talent and the love of knowledge in our children, for the gift of curiosity and passion for knowledge and discovery can be cultivated from childhood, if appropriate and effective methods are followed.

I conclude by greeting the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Ibn Abd Al-Aziz, the Crown Prince, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn Abd Al-Aziz and the second Deputy Premier, His Royal Highness Prince Naif Ibn Abd Al-Aziz, for their support of scholarship. I would also like to express my thanks and appreciation to His Royal Highness Prince Khalid AL-Faisal Ibn Abd Al-Aziz for his commitment to disseminating knowledge and recognizing scholarly achievements through this magnanimous institution which he directs, and which honours us tonight.

Praise be to Allah.