

Acceptance Speech of  
**H.E. Recep Tayyep Erdogan**

Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey  
Winner of the 2010 King Faisal International Prize  
For Service to Islam 32nd Awards Presentation Ceremony

Tuesday 9 March 2010 (23.3.1431H)

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

I would like to extend my heartfelt greetings to all of you and express once again that it is a distinct pleasure for me to receive the King Faisal International Award on behalf of my country, my people and myself.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to convey my appreciation to the King Faisal Foundation, its distinguished executives and the members of the award committee.

It goes without saying that there are many common denominators that unite us as peoples of this region. However, I do believe that one of these denominators is more important than the others: we are all believers of a religion whose name means "peace." Throughout history, everywhere we breathed, everywhere we were present, we advocated peace, humanitarian values and human rights.

Again, for centuries, at the core of all the civilisations that we brought into existence have always been "humanity"- and all are called as "civilization of love".

Today, as required by the responsibility history imposes upon us, I do believe that it is our duty to produce once again most beautiful examples of that civilization of love and utter aloud the message of peace, which constitutes the foundation of our civilization, to the entire world.

As opposed to those who are inclined to perceive Muslims in a different manner and those who attempt to foment prejudices, we must promote tolerance, dialogue, mutual understanding and peaceful co-existence and act a leader and example to the rest of the world ; In this regard.

No matter what their color, language or faith might be, we love every single human being, all the created because of the Creator, and uphold their rights and law above everything else.

Our principle is to be "honest and straightforward as commanded" in all our endeavors. Never compromising this principle, we are obliged to defend justice on all grounds with fortitude.

Justice is the most important value that should be administered, upheld and preserved in all d walks of life. The root cause of most of the ongoing problems in the world is lack and'; deprivation of justice, and injustice constitutes the major reason for the existing tragedies.

Turkey exerts sincere efforts to bring about peace, stability and security in our region and on global scale. We all are assiduously trying to gradually expand the dialogue process that we have initiated with our neighbors to our region and beyond, and to build a more viable world.

It disturbs all of our conscience that the Middle East is known as a geography of blood and cries. We all want this region to be known, as it was known throughout history, for its science, arts, literature, peace and safety, solidarity and sharing.

I am very happy to express that our calls for peace, reconciliation, dialogue and justice resonate in an increasingly wide geography and bring hope to those souls who are thirsty for peace, as if they come across an oasis in a desert.

It is my firm belief that, all the countries in our region with which we share a common history and culture, would like to see that wars and conflicts that are continuing for years come to an end, as much as we do.

It is encouraging to see that we are not alone in this struggle.

The King Faisal International Award constitutes a very meaningful contribution that supports, encourages and strengthens us in this struggle.

I would like to thank once again the King Faisal Foundation for deeming me worthy of this distinguished award..

While expressing that I will to carry this great honour with pride as long as I breathe, I would like to salute you all and extend my best regards and affection.