

TRANSLATION
Acceptance Speech of

H.E. ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI

Winner of the 2011
King Faisal international Prize for Service to Islam

33rd Awards Ceremony
Sunday 13 March 2011 (8.4.1432H)
Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

HRH Prince Nayef Ibn Abd Al-Aziz Al-Saud
Second Deputy Premier and
Minister of Interior
Your Highnesses
Your Excellencies
Distinguished Guests

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

It is a great honour for me to receive The King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam. I am truly humbled by this recognition and wish to thank The King Faisal Foundation for giving me the opportunity to speak a few words on this special occasion.

Allah S.W.T. has been kind to me. He granted me permission to serve my country and my religion and I was determined to contribute, in whatever modest way I could, to the betterment of Malaysians, and hopefully, to humanity at large. My goal has always been to enhance the spiritual and material well-being of the society I lived in, and I hope I have managed to do this thus far.

I gave my attention to areas I felt my country and our people needed the most, and I truly believed that the heart of human well-being was the importance of knowledge and religion.

Islam Hadari sprung from my deep religious roots and my insight into what I understood to be the essence of the teachings of Islam based on the AI-Quran and Hadith, which are its fundamental humanity, justice for all, a moral and ethical life, the betterment of the self and ethical life, the betterment of the self and the human condition in all its dimensions, and, above all, submission to the will of God.

Islam Hadari was a response to the challenges of the times as I saw them. My faith was often misunderstood by my own brethren and the world at large. It was manipulated and exploited by various groups including extremists and terrorists to serve their own means. Islam was under siege, and Muslims were often portrayed in a negative and humiliating light. In other parts of the world, the Muslim ummah were poor, impoverished, oppressed, assaulted and occupied. Through Islam Hadari, I sought to restore dignity and pride to Muslims everywhere.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The development of what I called "Human Capital" was central to my strategy in achieving this, and human capital development encompasses the integrated and wholesome development of the human person, combining mental prowess with moral integrity and spiritual strength. This is the ideal held by many philosophers, humanists and even in Islam as we, as human beings, are the vicegerents of Allah on earth.

One of the most important aspects for developing human capital, especially with regards to an Islamic perspective, is the accumulation and sharing of knowledge. And while the world may no longer know or acknowledge this, education and knowledge is one of Islam's most important legacies. The rise of Islam has always been due to the scientific, mathematical and various knowledge we have gained and also shared.

Islamic knowledge has become the standard in global education even until today therefore, it is one of our duties, as Muslims, to heed this call and strengthen our knowledge for the betterment of our future.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am thankful to have been bestowed a privilege very few are fortunate to receive the privilege to lead, and in leading, to serve Allah S.W.T. and my people. The success of winning this award will motivate me to work harder

to help enrich and develop young inds, to strengthen the economic capacities of Islamic countries, and play an active role in forging peace and stability in my region and around the world.

I dedicate this honour you bestow on me today to a dream we all share, the dream of a more just, peaceful and prosperous world.

Thank you

Wabillahitaufik Walhidayah

Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh