

## TRANSLATION

Acceptance Speech  
**Prof. Muhammad Adnan Bakhit Al-Sheywab**

Co-Winner of the 2011  
King Faisal International Prize for Islamic Studies

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

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

In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate, and peace and prayers be upon the Prophet Mohammad and all his family and companions.

It is a pleasure to extend to you the salutation of Islam, and to stand along with my colleagues, this year's winners of the King Faisal International Prize, to thank you for sponsoring this ceremony.

The story of education, higher education and research in the Kingdom dates back to the dawn of the past century, when boys and girls schools started to spread in the Kingdom's cities and villages. This was followed by the rise of universities during the second half of that century, and the support for scholars studying overseas for Master and Ph.D. degrees at leading international universities. The latest Saudi university, King Abd Allah University for Science and Technology, is a promising institution for further progress. University education is also supported by research chairs and endowments which contribute towards the preservation and study of our heritage and the promotion of scientific research, thereby gaining the respect of prestigious learning institutions worldwide.

The inception of universities and research institutions coincided with the emergence of other establishments that encourage research and recognize researchers. One of the oldest of these is the King Faisal Foundation which incepted the King Faisal International Prize and started awarding it, solely on the basis of merit, to outstanding scholars in different fields of research from different universities and research institutions worldwide since 1399H/1979G.

The Prize Secretariat invites distinguished scientists and scholars from different parts of the world each year to serve in its committees which rigorously assess and select the winners. This process has gained the Prize credibility and prestige worldwide.

Allow me to express my sincere thanks to His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Al-Faisal, Chairman of the Prize Committee, and to the General

Secretariat of the Prize.

God bless the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, symbol of the Kingdom's dignity, father for its citizens and a respected leader in the Arab and Islamic nations.

Assalam alaikum.