

*Professor Jaswir Speech*

*King Faisal 2018 Laureate*

*Service to Islam*

Alhamdulillah...All praise and gratitude belong to Allah. Not only has He given us life, He has made life beautiful for us.

In this auspicious occasion, I am greatly humbled and honoured to be receiving this award. I would like to offer my sincerest gratitude to His Majesty, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as well as the King Faisal Foundation for this honour. My journey in this new scientific knowledge spans two decades of dedication and passion in the exploration, experimentation and discoveries of this unique branch of scientific knowledge known as "Halal Science".

I have this strong conviction that I can contribute more to overcome issues that are close to the Muslims' heart - the permissibility and prohibition of consuming products that are available in the market.

I have intensified my effort by publishing my research works in journals, books and chapters in books; offers training in halal-related disciplines; involves in education and contributing to community services. I have conducted a series of programs to emphasise on the availability of halal materials as alternatives to non-halal materials and ingredients; introducing halal authentications; developing rapid method for non-halal contamination; accentuating the importance of halal food and cosmetics and initiating an international halal standards.

With the exponential growth in the market for halal industry forecasted at USD 3.1 trillion annually, "Halal Science" is a vital component in strengthening the halal industry.

To my fellow Muslim scientists and scholars, we are reminded to shoulder an enormous responsibility. The Qur`an, the sunnah and hadiths are full of scientific concepts that had inspired Muslims scholars in the past with the intention of contributing to humanity and civilization.

Last but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my parents, my late Father and my Mother, my wife and children, my brothers and sisters; my colleagues and students, my university where I am working now International Islamic University Malaysia, and the Governments both Indonesia and Malaysia, for their continuous support and encouragement. May Allah Subhanahu wataala reward each of us. Thank you.