

Statement by Prof. Kemal Mohammed Obaid Babaker

Director of the International University of Africa

Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, who commanded us to seek knowledge as a way of pondering the signs of His greatness and miracles, and prayers and peace be upon the Messenger of Allah -Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him- who urged us to seek knowledge and make advances in learning in order to gain the favors of Almighty Allah.

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia

Your Royal Highnesses.....

Excellencies.....

Your Eminences venerable scholars..

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you,

It is a great day for the International University of Africa to be honored with such a prestigious award as King Faisal Prize for the Service to Islam.

I am delighted to stand before you today to express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude for this prize. It is indeed a real elevation for our university in the eyes of the people. We hope that its standing will be similarly elevated in the judgment of Allah. This is a truly exalting award for the University about which it is so proud. It is set to substantially raise its standing in excellence. Our genuine gratitude goes to the selection committees of King Faisal Prize for awarding this distinguished prize to our university. Well-deserved thanks go to Field Marshal Abdel Rahman Suwar al-Dahab, who took the initiative of nominating the University for this prize thanks to his deep familiarity with its programs and activities. Though he is no longer among the living today, he is still quite alive through the values and exemplarity he embodied.

The fact that the International University African is awarded with this prominent prize represents a grand honor and a source of pride, which entails thankfulness to Allah and gratitude to the King, government, and the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by anyone who is associated with this university, including students, professors, and employees spread throughout the world. These are the people who tour the four corners of the world, propagating knowledge and advocacy, and preaching, spreading the values of goodness, love and brotherhood which are the basis of human nature and the message of Islam as preached by Prophet Mohammad -Peace be upon him. These are the principles and values that illuminate the path of humanity by providing good and guidance to all.

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

Ladies & Gentlemen,

The mission of the International University of Africa and its driving objective has always been the graduation of generations of educated Muslims who would carry the message of advocacy in their various scientific and scholarly disciplines. They would express the civilized values of Islam in close interaction with the causes and concerns of their societies by way of reform, advocacy, and human and natural development without making any undue compromises or going to any improper extremes. Here are today the remarkable fruits of the work of our university who have proven to be elements of positive contribution to their societies, peoples, and nations. The number of graduates of the university has surpassed 35,000 from around the world in different fields and they assume critical positions in their countries. The outstanding features that have marked the university and its graduates have always been tolerance and openness towards the Other.

As I conclude, I would like to express, in my own name and on behalf of all the staff of our university, our sincere thanks and appreciation to all those who have contributed to the International University of Africa and to all those who have contributed to its advancement. May Allah accept our good deeds.

Peace, mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you all.