

King Faisal Prize in “Service to Islam” Category

Acceptance Speech 2021

Mr. Mohamed bin Abdulrahman Al-Sharekh

Praise be to Allah and prayers and peace be upon the most honorable of the prophets and the seal of the messengers.

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud,

Your Highnesses and Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

Assalamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu,

It is indeed with an indescribable feeling of pride that I stand here today to celebrate the accomplishments of a lifetime, with the help and guidance of Allah, in the service of Islam and the humanities. We have had the honor of contributing to the memorization of the noble Qur’an in its electronic form for nearly four decades of assiduous work. That quality work has, praise be to Allah, been disseminated across the world. As such, we regard today’s celebration of the winners as an incentive for us to keep up the venture in a bid to serve Islam through its enduring expressive tool, the Arabic language. In fact, who else would be worthier than the country of the Two Holy Mosques to preserve the Arabic language and its purity and spread its culture throughout the world!

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques,

Your Highnesses and Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

Actions do speak louder than words; so let the words you hear, the faces you see, and the spirit of hope and confidence you instill in us, be an expression of the overwhelming joy we feel on this day! King Faisal Prize, being the most prestigious and most appreciated prize in both the Muslim and Arab worlds, is considered the prize of a lifetime for those who get the chance of being honored with it, as beyond it there seems to be no higher ambition.

I express my gratitude and my heartfelt thanks to those who graciously nominated me for this prize. My genuine appreciation also goes to the prize's administration and its representatives who spared no effort to fill us with overwhelming feelings of glory, joy, and bliss. How could it be otherwise? Surely, we are blessed with an international award that raises the standing of scholars and scientists, as our celebration will go down in the annals of history.

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques,

We have been pleased with Your wise decision to establish the King Salman International Complex for the Arabic Language, which intends to establish a unit for Arabic contemporary lexicon in line with the orientations of the G20 countries in the cultural and linguistic fields. Indeed, each member country of the G20 has an ever-developing contemporary lexicon of its own language as a way of keeping pace with global scientific and civilizational developments.

We consider our honoring by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques as a debt on us, which we pledge to repay willingly, respectfully asking to have it accepted.

On this hearty acknowledgment note, I wish to conclude my acceptance speech.

Thank you.