

Speech by
Japan Muslim Association

In the name of Allah, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful
Praise be to Allah, and prayers and peace be upon the Messenger of Allah
Assalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh...

It is our great honor to receive the King Faisal Prize. On behalf of the Japan Muslim Association, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz and his Crown Prince, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman - May Allah preserve them - for their efforts in serving Islam and Muslims throughout the world. Our appreciation goes to the Chairman of the Prize's Board, His Royal Highness Prince Khaled Al-Faisal, the Prize's Secretary-General, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Sebail, and all the members.

The Japan Muslim Association was founded in 1952. It is one of the oldest Islamic associations in Japan. Over the past seventy years, we have striven to achieve our mission of spreading Islam and its correct understanding in Japanese society, while maintaining harmony with the local community and cooperation with the people of Japan. We are deploying our efforts to introduce the Japanese people to Islam, promote mutual cooperation, friendship and solidarity with Muslims in Japan and abroad, and support relief work in times of disaster. We are also interested in participating in interfaith and cultural dialogue.

Throughout the history of the Association, many achievements have been realized, thank Allah, most notably the project of the first translation of the holy Quran into the Japanese language by Muslims. It was translated by the second president of the Association, Omar Meta - May his soul rest in peace - and published in 1972. A number of books of Quranic interpretation, hadiths, and the biography of the Prophet were also translated in addition to writing, translating, and distributing many introductory materials about Islam.

The Association's work includes holding various lectures for Muslims and non-Muslims, supervising the first Islamic cemetery in Japan, sending Muslim students to Muslim countries on scholarships, holding training courses for Haj and Umrah pilgrims, in addition to issuing halal certification to Japanese companies to facilitate the export of their products to Muslim countries.

All these achievements have indeed been possible thanks to the grace of Almighty Allah, then thanks to the generous support from the government and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, then the concerted efforts of our founding predecessors in the Association - May Allah have mercy on them all - who did everything in their power throughout the difficult times they faced post-World War II.

Let me conclude by announcing that part of this prize will be donated to bring relief to those affected by the earthquake that occurred recently in Japan. May Almighty Allah help us realize more beneficial achievements for Muslims and all humanity!

Wassalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh

President of the Japanese Muslim Association
Yahya Toshio Endo