

## **Introduction Speech**

**by Dr. Abd Allah Al-Uthaimen  
the Secretary-General of King Faisal International Prizes**

**at the 11<sup>th</sup> Awarding Ceremony held on 12.08.1409H (19.03.1989)**

In the Name of God the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, all his Kinship and Companions.

Your Royal Highness,  
Your Highnesses,  
Your Eminences & Excellencies,  
Pioneers and lovers of science

I have the pleasure to introduce you the eminent scientists and scholars, the winners of the King Faisal International Prizes for the current year.

H.E. Shekich Muhammad Ghazali Al-Saqqa, is awarded King Faisal International Prize in the Service to Islam, of Egyptian nationality, a renowned preacher, and the Scientific Advisor to Emir Abd Al-Qadir Islamic University at Constantine City in Algeria.

The distinguished works of Sheikh AlGhazali are characterized by many things the foremost of which are:

1. His scholarly and practical efforts in the field of Islamic call (Dawah) which resulted in the creation of a highly distinguished methodology which is adopted and followed by preachers and authors.
2. His copious scientific output aiming at the service of Islam and Muslims, on both creed (Aqida) and Shari'a (the Canonical Law of Islam) levels, where he compiled and published over 40 books, the most conspicuous of which are:
  - a. Creed (Aqida)
  - b. How to Understand Islam? And
  - c. Fiqh Assira (Comprehension of the biography of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH))
3. His endeavours to accomplish an objective interpretation of the Holy Qur'an.
4. His call to religious extremists and squanderers to be moderate.
5. His incessant struggle against layman and materialistic trends.
6. His fight against Christianization invasion.

Having been, in all these fields, a supporter of, an addicted to right, he did not bow or yield to any kind of blame while calling to follow the teachings of God.

As for King Faisal International Prize in Islamic dedicated to "Studies on Islamic City" is conferred upon Dr. Saleh Ahmad Al-Ali, an Iraqi national, and chairman of the Iraqi Scientific Centre, in recognition of his two books:

1. The economic and social organization of Basra in the 1<sup>st</sup> cent. A.H.
2. The plan of Basra and its district.

These two books closely interrelated and constitute one comprehensive study showing the type of the “Islamic City” in its early period.

The author selected Basra specifically as one of the early centers of settlement outside the Arabian Peninsula. He noted in his work the circumstances and factors – natural, social and economic – which the Muslims took into consideration in founding this city, as well as Islamic concepts and ideas of urbanization. Thus it had great role in our civilization and culture, which we still view with admiration.

The author followed a strict methodology: in the wide range of sources, in the critical approach, in analysis, and in documentation, leading to a comprehensive view. All this made him pioneer in this field.

The King Faisal International Prize for Arabic Literature dedicated to “Studies on Poets and writers until the end of the Third Hijri Century” has been awarded jointly to Dr. Shakir Al-Fahham, who is of Syrian nationality and Vice-President of the Academy of Arabic Language in Damascus and to Dr. Yousef Khulaif, Egyptian, and Professor of Arabic Literature in the faculty of Arts, Cairo University.

Dr. Fahham was interested in the Studies of the old Arabic Literature, in all its manifestations, and published his many article, in this regard, in many well-known magazines and periodicals. His book on “Al-Farazdaq” is deemed as one of the best biographies. He presented in this book an investigating historical methodology in studying the environment and the life of the poet, along with a literary criticism of his exceptional and distinguished Poetry. This book, in applying this methodology, is a proof of the author’s scientific standing and qualifications, and his experience in the methods of documentation and modern Arabic criticism.

Dr. Yousef Khulaif has been interested in old Arabic Literature, since he published his book on Al-Sa’alik poets in pre-Islam era. His study on the “Zu Al-Rumma” a great poet is deemed as comprehensives, pervasive and covering all the aspects of the vast experience and ride life of this poet. He explained the psychological dimensions and aesthetical aspects in his poetry, through elucidating the nature of the desert as depicted and sensed by the poet himself, and the emotional aspect in his life. This eminent scholar has succeeded in selecting samples of his poetry which are considered as key-notes for the psychological and artistic studies, and explained their significances in relation to the nature of experience and poetic pictures. His methodology in this book was brilliant and had poetic touches in expression without affecting his objective, and balanced method of scientific research.

The King Faisal International Prize in Medicine for work on “infertility” has been awarded jointly to:

Prof. Dr. Robert Geoffrey Edwards, who is of British nationality, and Prof. of Human Reproduction at the University of Cambridge, England, and Prof. Dr. Luigi Mastroianni, a USA national, and professor of obstetrics and gynecology in the University of Pennsylvania, School of Medicine, Philadelphia.

In recognition of their simultaneous genuine studies in the field of infertility, which culminated in developing a novel method for in vitro fertilization of the human ovum.

Prof. Edwards proved that injecting procreative hormones results in fertilizing more than one ovum in the same monthly period, in addition he was able to procure animal’s ovum and fertilizing them in vitro, then he applied the same method on humans. Therefore his endeavours, in collaboration with the late Prof. Dr. Patrick Steptoe, culminated in the birth of the world first “Test-tube” baby. His

publication in 1980 of the methodology of IVF and the implantation of the fertilized ovum, has permitted hundreds of scientists in infertility centers around the world in the treatment of infertility which led to the birth of thousands of test-tube babies.

As regards, Prof. Mastroianni whose research, over 30 years, on the effects of the procreative hormones on the ovulation process led to his discovery that Clomiphene induces ovulation in monkeys, and that such method could be applied to humans which in turn, resulted in increasing the fertilization of women. Moreover Prof. Mastroianni made pioneering studies on determining the physiology of the Fallopian tubes and the biochemistry of their tubal fluid which are essential for the success of the natural fertilization upon the sperm-ovum interaction. These studies permitted many researchers, among whom Dr. Edwards, to make IVF fertilization of the human ovum in an environment similar to that of the fallopian tubes.

In addition to his establishment of the biggest IVF centers in U.S.A., and his training of specialists from many countries for the treatment of infertility.

The King Faisal International Prize in Science dedicated to “Physics” has been awarded jointly to highly distinguished Scientists, they are:

Prof. Dr. Theodor W. Hansch, who is of German nationality, and professor of Physics at Munich University, and Prof. Dr. Ahmad Hasan Zewail, who is of Egyptian origin and U.S.A. citizen, and professor of Chemical Physics, California Institute of Technology.

Dr. Hansch is a distinguished specialist in laser physics, and showed how to cancel the Doppler widths of spectral lines, which led to draw away a bewildering complexity which was obscuring and making the details of atomic and molecular structure. These studies in turn, paved the way to utilize laser for the benefit of mankind.

While Dr. Zewail is a distinguished specialist in laser application and was pioneer in working on time resolved spectroscopy ultrafast molecular processes, which led to a better understanding of fundamental processes and has also importance for possible realization of laser-driven chemical reactions.

The General Secretariat for the prize, extend sincere thanks to the HRH the Crown Prince for patronizing this ceremony, and all this eminent assembly responded to our invitation, and extend congratulations to the honorable winners of the prize and wish all prosperity of success.

Our last call thank God, the Lord of universe.