

**INTRODUCTION OF THE WINNERS
OF THE 15TH SESSION
OF THE KING FAISAL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE
Saturday 18 Shawal 1413H
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By

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In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful, Peace and prayers be upon His Prophet.

Your Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz, representative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques,
Your Royal Highnesses,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,

It gives me great pleasure to present, on this blessed evening, this year's winners of the King Faisal International Prizes in the fields of Service to Islam, Islamic Studies, Medicine and Science.

The King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam is awarded this year to His Excellency President Alija Izetbegovic, President of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, who was nominated for the prize by the Islamic Research Institute in Zagreb. President Izetbegovic was born in Bosanski in 1925. He moved with his family to Sarajevo where he received his education and studied engineering at the University of Sarajevo. In 1956, he also obtained a university degree in law. Following graduation, he served as a legal advisor to leading academic and commercial institutions, chief among which was the University of Sarajevo.

In 1940, President Izetbegovic joined the Organization of Muslim Youth. In 1989 he instituted the Democratic Labour Party, an Islamic political party, one year later he was elected President of Bosnia-Herzegovina. President Izetbegovic was awarded the prize based on his following contributions:

1. His excellent writings on the impact of Islam on the individual and the community;

2. His relentless defense, since his youth, of Muslim rights in his country. This exposed him to imprisonment and oppression by the ruling Communist regime;
3. His establishment of an Islamic party which led his country to independence and his persistent current struggle against ethnic cleansing, conspiracy, and aggression;
4. His success in strengthening the ties of Bosnian Muslims with leaders and peoples of the Islamic world, thereby gaining global Muslim support for his country;
5. His wisdom in counteracting the present difficulties surrounding his country and his restless efforts to bring about peace and well-being for his people and victory over their enemies.

The King Faisal International Prize for Islamic Studies is awarded this year for studies dealing with sociology or viewing sociology from an Islamic point of view. The prize is awarded to Dr. Hassan El-Saaty of Egypt, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, 'Ain Shams University, Cairo.

Dr. Hassan El-Saaty was born in Qalyoub, Egypt, in 1916. He obtained his university degree in English Language and Literature from Cairo University in 1938 then pursued postgraduate studies leading to a Ph.D. in Sociology from London University.

Dr. El-Saaty has dedicated his entire career to teaching and researching sociology. He helped develop the subject in several universities and research centers. He has made numerous contributions to Arab and international conferences. He is a member of 11 academic commissions including the Egyptian Consortium for Sciences. Last year Dr. El-Saaty received the Egyptian State Award in Social Sciences. He has authored or translated 16 books and some 30 papers, in addition to 15 publications in English.

He was awarded the Prize in recognition of his academic, extending over 40 years, and his pioneering role as a researcher in Islamic sociology, thus paving the way for many subsequent scholars.

The King Faisal International Prize for Medicine is awarded this year in the subject of Acquired Immunodeficiency Diseases. The prize is awarded to the French team of scholars, namely:

- Professor Luc Montagnier, Director of Scientific Research, and Head of the Viral Oncology Unit, Pasteur Institute;
- Dr. Jean-Claude Chermann, Director of Research, National Institute of Health and Medical Research, Marseilles; and

- Dr. Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, Head of the Retrovirus Biology Unit, Pasteur Institute.

The team was nominated by the National Institute of Health and Medical Research in Marseille, by King Saud University in Riyadh, and by the National Academy of Science in Italy.

The prize was awarded in recognition of the team's outstanding contributions to the study of acquired immunodeficiency diseases, including:

1. Discovery in 1983 of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS in humans succeeded by detailed genetic analysis and DNA sequencing of the virus in the following year;
2. Identification of a surface protein of certain lymphocytes which enables the virus to attach to, enter and destroy these cells, leading to the syndrome of human AIDS. This was coupled with studies of virus proteins which influence the host's immune response;
3. Discovery, through epidemiological surveys, of a high infection rate with AIDS in Central Africa and illustration of the heterosexual mode of transmission;
4. Discovery of a simian immunodeficiency virus in West Africa and analysis of its virus proteins;
5. Initiation of studies towards the development of new diagnostic tools and prospective vaccines against AIDS.

Professor Montagnier was born in 1932. He received his M.D. from the University of Paris in 1960 and assumed senior administrative positions in the Pasteur Institute where he also teaches. He is the Director of Research in the National Centre for Scientific Research, Head of the Viral Oncology Unit and leader of the research team for immunodeficiency diseases. He has published more than 260 papers, most of which relate to the topic of AIDS. In recognition of his pioneering studies in this field Professor Montagnier has received 13 awards in addition to honorary D.Sc.'s from several European and American universities. He is a member of major medical societies.

Dr. Jean-Claude Chermann was born in 1939. He obtained his Ph.D. in Science from the University of Paris in 1976 and has occupied several academic and administrative positions in the National Institute for Health and Medical Research, Marseille, since then. He has published more than 200 papers.

Dr. Françoise Barré-Sinoussi was born in 1947, received her Ph.D. in Science from the University of Paris in 1974, then pursued further studies and assumed several academic responsibilities at the Pasteur Institute. She has published more than 180 papers and 70 scientific articles for which she received three academic awards.

The King Faisal International Prize for Science is awarded this year in Physics. The prize was awarded jointly to:

- Professor Herbet Walther of German nationality, Professor of Physics, University of Munich and Director, Max-Planck-Institut for Quantum Optics. He was nominated for the prize by the California Institute of Technology.
- Professor Steven Chu of American nationality, Dean of the Physics Department Stanford University. He was nominated for the prize by Stanford University, USA.

Professor Walther was born in 1935. He obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Heidelberg in 1963 and assumed a number of academic positions in several scientific associations. He is the recipient of several honorary awards.

The research and inventions of Professor Walther have had considerable impact on the development of quantum optics during recent years. He was the first to study basic quantum phenomena and is a pioneer in his field.

Professor Steven Chu was born in 1948. He received his Ph.D. in Physics from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1976 and has since occupied several academic positions in addition to his membership of many research associations.

During the past ten years, Professor Chu developed the technology for capturing atoms and used it to study detailed phenomena in the field of experimental quantum optics. He has made tremendous contributions to the theoretical aspects of this field in which he is a leading pioneer.

In conclusion, the General Secretariat of the King Faisal International Prize would like to extend its deep gratitude to HRH Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz for patronizing this celebration on behalf of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. We would also like to thank all of those present tonight and all who have helped us in nominating, reviewing, and selecting the winners.

May we extend warm congratulations to the winners.

God bless you all.
