

PRESENTATION  
OF THE 1999  
KING FAISAL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE  
WINNERS

by

**PROF. ABD ALLAH S. AL-UTHAIMIN**

**Secretary-General of  
King Faisal International Prize**

In the name of Allah

Praise be to Allah and peace and prayers be upon the Prophet Muhammad and his  
family, companions, and all his followers until Judgement Day

Your Royal Highness, Prince Sultan ibn Abdul Aziz,  
Second Deputy Premier, Minister of Defense and Aviation  
and Inspector General  
Your Royal Highnesses,  
Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,

Assalamu Alaikum

It gives me great pleasure to present the winners of the 1999  
King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam, Islamic Studies,  
Arabic Literature, Medicine, and Science.

The King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam has  
been awarded to Mr. Jum'ah Al-Majid Abd Allah of the United  
Arab Emirates.

Mr. Al-Majid is the Founder and President of Jum'ah Al-Majid Center for Culture and Heritage. He was nominated for the Prize by the World Assembly of Muslim Youth. He has been awarded the Prize in recognition of his outstanding philanthropic services, particularly in the field of Islamic education and support of poor families, as exemplified by the following:

- Establishment of schools in the UAE which provide free education for 5,500 Muslim students
- Establishment of the College of Islamic and Arabic Studies in Dubai which provides free education and financial assistance, as needed, for more than 2,000 graduate and undergraduate students
- Provision of financial support for higher overseas studies for Muslim students and building schools in many Islamic countries
- Donations to Islamic cultural centres
- In addition, Mr. Al-Majid is a Member and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of *Bait Al-Khair* Society in the UAE for the support of poor Muslim families.

The King Faisal International Prize for Islamic Studies (topic: Contributions to the Study, Verification and Authentication of the "Hadith") has been awarded to Shaikh Muhammad Nasir Ad-Din Al-Albani (Syrian).

Shaikh Al-Albani is a writer specializing in Hadith, Fiqh and other Islamic subjects. He was nominated for the Prize by the World Association of Muslim Youth and the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States. He was awarded the Prize in recognition of his

outstanding, comprehensive and rigorous studies on the Prophet's *Hadith*. Shaikh Al-Albani's prolific and highly authoritative publications have not only enriched the Islamic library with a wealth of valuable references but have also established him as one of the most highly respected authorities on *Hadith* in his generation.

The King Faisal International Prize for Arabic Literature (topic: Comparative Studies Between Arabic and Other Literatures in both their Theoretical and Applied Aspects) has been awarded jointly to Professor Makarim Ahmad Al-Ghamri (Egyptian), and Professor Said Abd Al-Salam Allouche (Moroccan).

Professor Al-Ghamri is Professor of Russian and Comparative Literature, College of Linguistics, Ain Shams University, Cairo. She was nominated for the Prize by Ain Shams University in Cairo. Her award is in recognition of her distinguished contributions to the Prize's topic, as exemplified by her authoritative book on the influence of Arabic and Islamic cultures on Russian literature during the 19th century. This is an original, comprehensive, and thoroughly documented text and a valuable addition to the Arabic library in the field of comparative literature.

Professor Allouche is a Professor of Comparative Literature, College of Arts, Mohammad V University, Rabat, Morocco. He was nominated for the Prize by the Department of Arabic Language and Arts, College of Arts, King Saud University. He was awarded the Prize in recognition of his excellent studies on the theory and application of comparative literature, such as his studies on the mutual influence of French and Arabic literatures and his comprehensive critical reviews of the contributions made by Arab scholars in the field of comparative literature.

The King Faisal International Prize for Medicine (topic: Allergic Diseases) has been awarded jointly to Professor Patrick Holt (Australian) and Professor Stephen Holgate (British).

Professor Holt is Senior Principal Research Fellow at the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia, Adjunct professor of microbiology in the University of Western Australia and Head of the Cell Biology Department at Telethon Institute for Child Health Research. He was nominated for the Prize by the Telethon Institute. He has been awarded the Prize in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the study of respiratory allergies, including his pioneering studies on cellular and molecular basis of these allergies and the mechanisms regulating immunological responses to inhaled allergins. These studies have provided new perspectives on the causes and genesis of allergic respiratory diseases and the possibility of developing primary strategies for their prevention in childhood.

Professor Holgate is a Medical Research Council Clinical Professor of Immunopharmacology at the University of Southampton School of Medicine and Honorary Consultant Physician, Royal Bournemouth Hospital. He was nominated for the Prize by the University of Southampton, UK. Professor Holgate receives the award in recognition of his outstanding research on the genesis of asthma as a disorder of inflammation and repair, elucidation of the role of cytokines released by mast cells and T-lymphocytes in prolonging the inflammatory response in asthma, and the role of viruses and genetic predispositions in respiratory allergic diseases.

The King Faisal International Prize for Science (topic: Chemistry) has been awarded jointly to Professor Ryoji Noyori (Japanese), and Professor Dieter Seebach (German).

Professor Noyori is a Professor of Chemistry and Dean of the Graduate School of Science, Nagoya University, Chikusa, Japan. He was nominated for the Prize by The Chemical Society of Japan. He receives the Prize in recognition of his innovative contributions to a wide range of modern organic chemistry, including the development of new synthetic methods, stereoselective reactions and organometallic chemistry, especially the devise of transition metal chiral catalysts containing BINAP. These studies have led to the development of rapid, efficient, and economic methods for synthesizing various natural and biologically active compounds.

Professor Seebach is a Professor of Chemistry, at the Federal School of Technology, Zürich, Switzerland. He was nominated for the Prize by The New Swiss Chemical Society of Switzerland. He was awarded the Prize in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments in the field of modern organic chemistry, including (a) development of novel synthetic methods; (b) elucidation of the structure and function of biomolecular  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkanoates; and (c) discovery of unusual  $\beta$ -peptides capable of undergoing diverse and stable secondary structures, which may have valuable applications in bioavailable drug candidates.

On behalf of the General Secretariat of King Faisal International Prize, I would like to extend our utmost thanks to his Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin Abd Al-Aziz, representative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, for sponsoring this ceremony, and to all of you for kindly attending the occasion. I would also like to thank everyone who cooperated with the General Secretariat of King Faisal International Prize during the various stages of nomination, refereeing, and final selection.

I conclude by extending warm congratulations to the winners.

May Almighty Allah guide and support those engaged in virtuous deeds. May Almighty Allah help our laureates in their endeavours to serve humanity, enrich human knowledge, and reduce human suffering.

May I also thank all of you for accepting our invitation to share this occasion with us.

Best wishes and assalam alaikum.