

Presentation of the
2012 King Faisal International Prize
By Professor
Abd Allah S. Al-Uthaimin
Secretary General of King Faisal International Prize

34th KFIP Award Ceremony
Tuesday 6.3.2012 (13.4.1433H)

In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Praise be to Allah, the Sustainer of the Two Worlds, and Peace and Prayers be Upon our Prophet Muhammad and all his family, companions and followers.

Your Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin Abd Al-Aziz,
Minister of Defense,
Your Royal Highnesses,
Your Eminences,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests.

Assalam Alaikum,

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this year's winners of the King Faisal International Prizes.

The King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam has been awarded to Shaikh Sulaiman bin Abd Al Aziz Al-Rajhi (Saudi Arabia), who was nominated for the Prize by the World Assembly of Muslim Youth in Riyadh. Shaikh Al Rajhi is a leading Muslim philanthropist whose distinguished accomplishments include:

- 1- Endowing more than 50% of his wealth for humanitarian purposes, and establishing a foundation to monitor and maintain the endowment and ensure that it is spent on its intended purposes.

- 2- Participating in establishing an enormous Islamic banking institution, setting an example to Islamic banks operating in accordance with Islamic Shari'ah in all dealings.
- 3- Contributing generously to humanitarian efforts to fight poverty by providing training and material support to national and international humanitarian societies.
- 4- Supporting and rewarding Quranic memorization groups, and printing hundreds of thousands of copies of the Holy Quran for free distribution throughout the world, particularly in Africa.
- 5- Establishing Al-Rajhi Colleges as a nucleus for a university soon to be announced. There are currently three health sciences colleges in addition to a special institution for developing Arabic and Islamic studies curricula in different languages and an institute for teaching Arabic language to non-Arabic speakers.
- 6- Building large mosques with places for prayers, education and seclusion, the most famous being Al-Rajhi mosque in Riyadh, which accommodates thousands of worshippers.
- 7- Investing in major projects aimed at providing food security and serving industry, construction and other sectors.
- 8- Contributing to the development of Muslim communities through investment and strengthening of commercial relations with Islamic countries.
- 9- Encouraging Muslim youth, through his talks and personal experience, to become more involved in private business.

I am pleased to invite his son, Dr. Abd Al-Rahman Bin Suliman Al-Rajhi to come forward to receive his father's Prize and deliver his speech.

The King Faisal International Prize for Islamic Studies in the topic of (*Human Rights in Islam*) has been awarded to: H. E. Professor Adnan Bin Muhammad Al-Wazzan, former President of Umm Al-Qura University in Makkah, who was nominated for the Prize by King Khalid University in Abha. Professor Al-Wazzan has been awarded the Prize for his Arabic text: "*An encyclopedia of human rights in Islam and its*

attributes in Saudi Arabia.” This insightful and thoroughly researched, 8-volumed text is based on extensive resources from Islamic jurisprudence and contemporary human rights studies, and reflects the writer’s experience and profundity in the field of human rights and his ability to present his work in a comprehensive and well-documented manner.

I am pleased to invite Professor Al-Wazzan to come forward to receive his Prize and deliver his speech.

The King Faisal International Prize for Arabic Language and Literature in the topic of (*Computer Processing of the Arabic Language: Individual and Institutional Endeavors*) has been awarded jointly to: Professor Ali Hilmi Ahmed Mousa (Egypt), Professor Emeritus in the Department of Physics, College of Science, Ain Shams University, and Dr. Nabil Ali Mohammed, Corporate Consultant, Advanced Arabic Systems, Cairo. Professor Ali Hilmi Mousa was nominated for the Prize by the Arabic Language Academy in Cairo; Dr. Nabil Ali was nominated for the Prize by King Khalid University in Abha, Cairo University, the Egyptian Supreme Council for Culture and the Egyptian Society for Linguistic Engineering in the College of Engineering at Ain Shams University.

Professor Mousa has been awarded the Prize in recognition of his distinguished contributions towards computer applications in Arabic language research, a field he has explored since early stages of computerization and its applications in language Studies. His work in this field has established him as a pioneer and has set an example for other researchers since the 1970’s.

For health reasons, Professor Mousa was unfortunately unable to come tonight and I am pleased to invite his son, Dr. Emad Mousa, to come forward to receive his father’s Prize and deliver his speech.

Dr. Nabil Mohammed has been awarded the Prize in recognition of his leadership in research and applications of computerized Arabic linguistic studies, coupled with his deep knowledge and remarkable ability to express and analyze his findings and present them as practical programs that benefit scholars of both linguistics and computerization fields. Dr. Mohammed’s research on computer-based management of Arabic language provides an indispensable reference to many scholars and program designers.

I am pleased to invite Dr. Nabil Mohammed to come forward to receive his Prize and deliver his speech.

The King Faisal International Prize for Medicine in the topic of (*Minimally Invasive Fetal Medicine*) has been awarded jointly to Professor Richard Berkowitz (USA), Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Columbia Medical Center in New York, and Professor James Bruce Bussel (USA), Professor of Pediatrics and Director of Research and Teaching Program at Weill Medical College at Cornell University, New York. They were nominated for the Prize by Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and Weill Medical College at Cornell University in New York.

They have worked together for more than two decades to study the natural history, optimal diagnostic criteria and management of pregnant women having infants affected with Alloimmune thrombocytopenia. This disease causes intracranial hemorrhage either in-utero or during neonatal period, causing death or substantial disability in 10% of untreated cases.

Professor Bussel has provided expertise in the diagnosis and medical management of these patients through safe administration of intravenous gamma-globulins, while Professor Berkowitz has provided expertise in obstetrical management of these patients. Both professors developed the study protocols, analyzed the data, interpreted the results and wrote the reports for publications. The worldwide ongoing treatment for this disorder is largely based on their work.

I am pleased to invite Professor Berkowitz to come forward to receive his Prize and deliver his speech.

I am also pleased to invite Professor Bussel to come forward to receive his Prize and deliver his speech.

The King Faisal International Prize for Science in the topic of (*Biology*) has been awarded to Professor Alexander Varshavsky (USA) Professor of Cell Biology at California Institute of Technology, who was nominated for the Prize by California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California, and a group of former KFIP laureates. He has been awarded the Prize in recognition of his ground-breaking discoveries into how the living cell works. He elucidated how cell functions are regulated by protein degradation emphasizing that proteins are essential parts of organisms and that they participate in

virtually every process within the cell. Hence, cells continuously produce and destroy proteins to ensure optimal function.

Varshavsky's work has unraveled the cellular mechanisms that determine how cellular proteins are being selected for destruction. He has also discovered how proteins are marked for rapid degradation. These advances have created a new realm of biology and have been essential for progress in research on human cancer, neurodegeneration, immune responses and other fundamental biological processes. This may lead to clinically useful therapies.

I am pleased to invite Professor Varshavsky to come forward to receive his Prize and deliver his speech.

In conclusion, I would like to express, on behalf of the General Secretariat of the King Faisal International Prize, our sincere gratitude to His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin Abd Al-Aziz, Minister of Defense, for sponsoring this ceremony on behalf of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. I would also like to congratulate the winners of this year's prizes for a well deserved recognition, and to thank our distinguished guests for sharing this happy event with us. Special appreciation and thanks are extended to all of those who cooperated with us during the nomination, refereeing and selection processes.

May Allah assist and support all of those working towards the welfare of humanity.

Thank you and Assalamu Alaikum.