

Speech by
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Under the shade of the flourishing word, the maps of the earth seek shelter in the guidance of the prophets and messengers (may peace be upon them) seeking to capture the passion behind their message and legacy: “Those are the ones whom Allah has guided, so follow their guidance.” Along the shores of time, humanity continues its journey toward the goals of life, inscribing its stories onto a planet brimming with events and history. Thus, atlases became bridges connecting time and space, tools to dispel ignorance and consign it to oblivion. In a world where mankind strives for comprehension and discovery, atlases have become scientific gateways unveiling new lands and expanding the horizons of knowledge and awareness.

Through my humble contribution to these atlases, I have sought to echo the events and the journeys of the past. Every map tells a story, where colors intertwine, lines overlap, contours shine, and images emerge to shape the promise of a bright future.

King Faisal Prize stands as a beacon of knowledge, inspiring the pursuit of excellence and strengthening the resolve of those who strive despite adversity. It is an invitation to every innovator and thinker to leave their remarks in a world teeming with challenges. And in that long-awaited moment, time seemed to pause, as if the universe is holding its breath to listen to my heartbeats, when the Secretary General of the prize announced the joyous news of my laureateship of King Faisal Prize for Service to Islam. A wave of excitement surged within me, as if every dream I had pursued had finally come to rest in this one extraordinary moment.

Every step of this blessed journey was fraught with challenges and uncertainties. I recalled the long nights spent among books and cartography tools, the days of wandering through gardens of knowledge, museums of distant lands, and the ancient sites of civilizations, harvesting whatever wisdom and insight I could gather. As I bring this map, etched in words, to an end, I extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation to the esteemed organizers of King Faisal Prize, a paragon of integrity and nobility. Their dedication has ensured its continued brilliance under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz, and his trustworthy Crown Prince (may Allah protect them). They have been the lifeblood of this prize and the seeds of inspiration that have flourished in the hearts of innovators. Their relentless efforts have rekindled hope in countless souls, ensuring that this award remains a symbol of excellence and a testament to ingenuity.