

Speech of Professor
Gerd Faltings
2014 Winner of the King Faisal International Prize
For Science

36th KFIP Awards Ceremony
Sunday 30/3/2014 (29/5/1435H.)

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

I am very much honored to receive this years King Feisal prize for science. I am from a country which was culturally backward during the times when the Roman and Arabic civilisations already flourished. But we managed to catch up and are part of the European culture which dominated the world for some time, mainly because of advances in science and engineering. Now this aera comes to an end as other nations are catching up, and it does not take them a thousand years. I am very pleased that Saudi Arabia strikes hard to develop from a country known for its mineral wealth to become a center of learning and research, and I see the King Feisal prize as a sign for the great esteem to which science is held in this country.