



Winners all

Shaikh Mohammad and Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed with winners Osama Alaysa, Hanawa Haruo, Sugita Hideaki and a representative from Arab Scientific Publishers in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

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**CATEGORIES
The winners**

Cultural Personality of the Year

■ Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Literature

■ Majaneed bait lahem [The Fools of Bethlehem] by Osama Alaysa, Palestine.

Translation

■ Hanawa Haruo, translating Naguib Mahfouz's Cairo trilogy into Japanese, published by Kokusho, Japan

Arab Culture in Other Languages

■ Arabian-Naito to Nhin-Jin (The Arabian Nights and the Japanese), Sugita Hideaki, published by Iwanami Shoten, Japan.

Publishing and Technology

■ The Arabic Scientific Publishers, Lebanon

Mohammad recounts Zayed's vision for UAE's development

VICE-PRESIDENT HONOURED AS CULTURAL PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR AT ZAYED BOOK AWARD

ABU DHABI
By SAMI ZAATARI
Staff Reporter

His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, was honoured with the Cultural Personality of the Year award at the Shaikh Zayed Book Awards ceremony in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

The Cultural Personality of the Year category is considered the most significant of the Shaikh Zayed Book Awards. Shaikh Mohammad was honoured in recognition of his work and initiatives to promote culture, as well as many social causes.

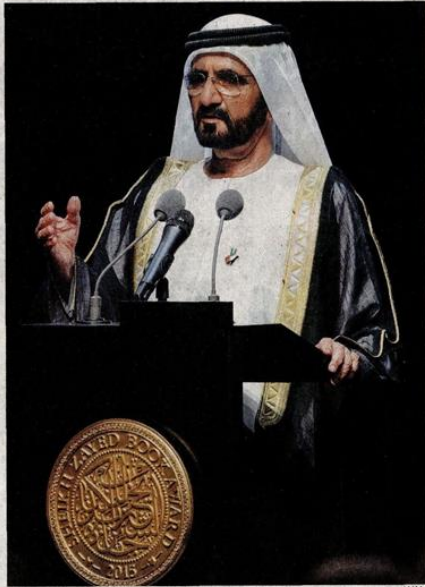
His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, presented the award to Shaikh Mohammad. Accepting the award, delivered a speech recounting how the union was formed and established thanks to the commitment of Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

He said: "I would like to tell you a story about the founders [of the UAE]. I knew Zayed before the establishment of the union. As you know there were nine emirates and he visited all of them. One day, [Shaikh] Zayed and [Shaikh] Rashid [Shaikh Mohammad's father] met in a small tent and sat on the floor with some cushions. They prayed together and had lunch. I had the honour of serving them coffee ... The challenges at the time were very big; they were related to the fact that the Arab people did not establish unions and some foreign countries did not want unions to be established."

Visionary leadership

"The persistence of [Shaikh] Zayed and his wisdom, along with [Shaikh] Rashid, made the union possible... He used to meet with students, teachers, everyone. When he moved, everyone moved. [Shaikh] Zayed wasn't one among us, he was the nation in one man. I can say now Zayed, your children are now global and they have reached out to the world."

Among the many notable projects launched by Shaikh Mohammad include the Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation, launched in 2007 with a \$10 billion endowment, with the goal of developing educational standards and research in the Arab world.



Making a point

■ Shaikh Mohammad addresses the gathering after accepting the Cultural Personality of the Year award.

READING

Abu Dhabi Crown Prince visits book fair

His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, yesterday visited the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair at Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre.

Accompanied by Shaikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Foreign Minister, he visited a number of sections and stands of publishing houses participating in the fair. He listened to presentations by exhibitors. Shaikh Mohammad underlined the importance of promoting reading and encouraging young people and students to read.

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traditional narrative form similar to that of the Arabian Nights, and also employs modern narrative writing techniques in telling its story, with a wealth of characters and stories.

Picking up the award in the Translation category was Japanese researcher Hanawa Haruo for his immense work in translating Naguib Mahfouz's Cairo trilogy into Japanese. Published by Kokusho Kankokai, Mahfouz's Cairo Trilogy goes

through the social history and changes Egypt went through from 1920 to 1950, with Haruo's translation offering a unique opportunity to understand and appreciate Arab culture and history by a Japanese audience.

The winner in the Arab Culture in Other Languages category was another Japanese author and researcher, Sugita Hideaki, for Arabian-Naito to Nhin-Jin (The Arabian Nights and the Japanese) book. Published by Iwanami Shoten, the book looks at how the Arabian Nights influenced aspects of modern Japanese culture, such as Japanese children's literature, Japanese theatre, cinema, and fiction.

The winner in the Publishing and Technology category was the Arab Scientific Publishers in Lebanon. The institution created 30 years ago has been involved in publishing scientific and intellectual work aimed at building knowledge in the Arab world. Among its published works are translated writings from other languages into Arabic. The group's material is targeted at all age groups.

Four categories were withdrawn from this year's edition of the award, including the Literary and Art Criticism award, the Young Author award, the Contribution to the Development of Nations Award, and the Children's Literature Award, due to the poor quality of nominations in these categories.

Prize money

The prize money for this year's award totals Dh7 million, with the Cultural Personality of the Year award carrying the highest cash prize of Dh1 million.

The winners in the other four categories each get Dh750,000. The Shaikh Zayed Book Award has been an annual event since 2007, with the award aiming to honour individuals and institutions that have made significant contributions in literature, culture, and knowledge.

The award also honours non-Arab researchers and authors who promote Arab culture in their own languages.

Shaikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Foreign Minister, and Dr Ali Bin Tamim, secretary-general of the Shaikh Zayed Book Award, were among the dignitaries present.



Literary genius

■ Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed presents the Zayed Book Award in the Literature category to Osama Alaysa in the presence of Dr Ali Bin Tamim.



Spreading the word

■ Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed presents the Publishing and Technology Award to a representative from the Arab Scientific Publishers from Lebanon (above) in the presence of Dr Ali Bin Tamim.



Tour of book fair

■ Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed and Shaikh Abdullah tour the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair yesterday. Dr Ali Bin Tamim and Juma Al Qubaisi, director of the book fair, were present.