

IRCICA AWARD FOR: PROF. SYED MUHAMMAD NAQUIB AL-ATTAS

Report by: (Professor Dr. Wan Mohd Nor Wan Daud)



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PROF. SYED MUHAMMAD NAQUIB AL-ATTAS TO RECEIVE IRCICA AWARD FOR EXCELLENT STUDIES IN VARIOUS FIELDS OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION

The International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC) is really privileged and takes great pleasure in announcing that Y.M. Professor Dr. Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas, The Founder-Director of ISTAC and the Holder of the al-Ghazali Chair of Islamic Thought, has been honored by the Islamic World as a distinguished scholar who will receive the IRCICA Award for excellent contributions to various fields of Islamic Civilization.

The Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) is a subsidiary of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC). The Governing Board of IRCICA, in its meeting in January 2000, has proposed to institute this award in recognition of the great contributions of Muslim scholars to the intellectual world. The proposal was approved by the OIC Islamic Commission and was later adopted by the 27th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers that convened recently in Kuala Lumpur (27 - 30th June, 2000). As such, this Award is officially recognized on behalf of the Muslim World.

The decision to nominate Prof. Syed Muhammad Naquib as a distinguished scholar was communicated to him by the Director General of IRCICA in a special letter of 5th July 2000. The award presentation

ceremony is scheduled to take place in Istanbul on 25th October 2000, concurrently with the OIC Ministerial Meeting to be held therein under the chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Turkey.

This international award has been instituted on behalf of the Islamic World in appreciation of outstanding scholars who in meaningful ways have contributed to the Islamic History and Civilization.

Such an award establishes once again the fact that the Muslim community in the Malay Region at large and in Malaysia specifically do in fact have a figure of repute who has been persistent in improving the community in various fields of achievement, especially in the area of Islamic Thought and Civilization. Besides being an honor to Prof. S.M.N. al-Attas in person, the award is also a rare gift for the Muslim community of Malaysia who are reputable for their active involvement in the struggle for the Muslims' cause all over the world. It will certainly add to the list of international recognition of Prof. al-Attas, a man who since 1974 has been in the Marquis ***Who's Who in the World***. He is definitely one of the very few eminent academicians in the Islamic World, who has been entrusted to occupy various academic chairs in a number of prestigious universities abroad, apart from being appointed since 1960's as distinguished member of numerous academic boards and committees of international standard. Among them are: UNESCO Expert on Islamics (1978), First Holder of the Tun Abdul Razak Distinguished Chair of Southeast Asian Studies (1981-1982), and being the honorable conferee: as Fellow of the Imperial Iranian Academy of Philosophy by the Empress of Iran (1975); of Iqbal Medal by the President of Pakistan (1979); of the Membership of the Royal Academy of Jordan by the late King Hussein (1994), and of the Degree of Honorary Doctorate of Arts (D. Litt.) by the University of Khartoum (1995).