



Your Excellency Lord Elder,
Chancellor of Al-Maktoum
Institute for Arabic and Islamic
Studies

Prof. Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi, Principal and Vice Chancellor of Al-Maktoum Institute
for Arabic and Islamic Studies

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

In the name of Allah the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful

It is my privilege to stand in front of you today as a representative of the distinguished
graduates of ALMI.

Indeed, the way to excellence is paved with the help of two major factors: the family and
the place of study. Undoubtedly, the support one gets from his or her family is essential
for one's excellence. Alhamdulillah, I'm lucky to have a very supportive family. I'm
indebted so much to them, especially to my beloved husband, Aminurraasyid Yatiban,
who introduced me to the new field of enquiry, Islamic Jerusalem Studies. Their
continuous support morally, technically and spiritually have really inspired me to be
more confident, disciplined and enthusiastic towards contributing my best to academia.

I'm glad to mention that the second factor that is also very important is the environment
in which studying takes place. Indeed, it's a great pleasure to be part of ALMI's family. I
would not be exaggerating if I say that it has been my feeling, and I believe, the feeling of
many if not all of my colleagues, that ALMI has innovatively and successfully created a
family environment for us. This is not an abstract notion. I have lived it when the
Principal, Prof. El-Awaisi and his wife came to the hospital just after finishing his work
at the Institute to become among the first visitors for me in the maternity ward. I have
lived it when Mrs Allison voluntarily offered her services to assist me, my husband and
my baby at anytime and anywhere in need. Not less significant, great experience and
memorable days along our pilgrimage journey to Makkah and Madinah, which consists

of ALMI's board members, staff and students, have lively proven how close we are to building a team towards attaining excellence. The list of such anecdotes is long and I'm sure that each one of my colleagues has his own. Therefore, I would like to congratulate Prof. El-Awaisi and ALMI's family for creating and encouraging this kind of dynamic environment, which suits ALMI's mission, "Towards Fostering Excellence" in academia.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to His Highness Shaikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance and Industry of the United Arab Emirates, Patron of ALMI, and the Islamic Research Academy (ISRA) in the United Kingdom for their extraordinary support in terms of scholarships given to me and my colleagues.

My special thanks and gratitude also extended to my respected supervisor, Prof. El-Awaisi for his extra supervision and invaluable advice. His kind assistance, constant guidance and very useful criticism are extremely appreciated. I would like to thank him again for inspiring me with leading ideas and for sparing me none of his precious time and effort.

I would like to thank all ALMI's staff and my respective lecturers Prof. Malory Nye, Dr. Abbas Ridha, Dr. Maher Abu Munshar and Dr. Mahdi Zahraa, who were always concerned with my study progress and development. Indeed, their invaluable encouragement and support are greatly appreciated.

Finally, On behalf of every one of my colleagues and myself I wish to cordially thank all those who have contributed to the success of this Institute and to our excellence.

Thank you.

Speech by Fatimatuzzahra Abd Rahman

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