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**The address of His Highness the Prime Minister at the inauguration  
of Al-Babtain Central Library for Arabic Poetry delivered by  
Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Mohammed Deifallah Sharar  
on behalf of His Highness the Prime Minister**

**8 April 2006**

In the Holy name of Allah, most gracious, most merciful

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to be here to represent His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness extends his best wishes and welcomes you all to Kuwait, as it celebrates today, a unique accomplishment in the field of Arab culture with the inauguration of Al-Babtain Central Library for Arabic Poetry adding a new dimension to intellect and culture by collecting, documenting, cataloging, researching and publishing Arabic poetry.

His Highness had kindly laid the cornerstone of this structure for the new poetic culture, on the sixth of January 2002, through his belief in the significant diversity of Arab culture which enhances the present and future of the "Ummah" nation. It is also the desire of the Kuwaiti people, their leadership and institutes to exert all efforts for the sake of elevating the Arab identity and promoting Arab culture.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Arabic poetry has long been an anthology for Arabs, whereby they preserve and chronicle their lives and achievements, their customs and traditions, their joys and sorrows. However, this collection required a volume to preserve, document, publish and revive it, and this task, we hope, will be performed by Al-Babtain Central Library for Arabic Poetry as it is the first specialized library in Arabic poetry across the Arab world, utilizing the finest technology, library science, and modern communications in preservation, classification, inspection and publishing.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am convinced this unique library, which is the latest addition to the long list of Kuwait's contributions in serving the Arab culture, will become an integral part of the new construction of the Kuwait National Library, which will soon be completed, as well as to the rest of the national libraries spread across the Arab world.



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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Globalization requires the world to conform to concocted values and outlandish customs influenced by the media and international communications; which raise a pressing need for each society and nation to reinforce its culture, language and individual identity, protecting them from alienation and estrangement, embracing at the same time, the means for progress and development without hampering societies in keeping pace with global development and progress.

Perhaps you will agree with me, since you represent the intellectual elite in our Arab and Islamic Ummah that our societies have known, apart from the Quran and the sound educational curriculum, nothing more appropriate than poetry as a means of preserving our exquisite Arabic language and its ancient traditions in order to pass them on to future generations, raising youths with good command of their language, who are aware of the value of their culture and heritage, youths who adhere to their religious and linguistic identity preserving and maintaining it, grasping it and taking pride in it.

I avail myself the opportunity on this occasion, to commend our dear brother Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, President of the Board of Trustees for the Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud al-Babtain Award for Poetic Creativity; he took it upon himself to attend to this branch of literature and enrich it through numerous accomplishments of the foundation by holding poetic ceremonies to perpetuate the memory of Arab and Muslim poets, and of distinguished cultural creations through various valuable publications ranging from dictionaries, poetic anthologies, references, contests and pamphlets. The latest is this affluent addition to the civilized and cultural features of the State of Kuwait and the Arab world.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the name of Kuwait which lives by the religion of Islam, Arabism which is our identity, cooperation our direction, compassion our precept and peace our objective; we wish you all the best and welcome you once again to this fine gathering.

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh