

H.E. Dr. Jamal Sanad Al-Suwaidi

Welcoming remarks

*Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I would like to start by welcoming you all to the United Arab Emirates and the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR). At this Center, with the immense support of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan (may God protect him), who believes in the role of knowledge in achieving progress and development, and His Highness General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and President of the ECSSR, we strive diligently and tirelessly to realize our mission of enabling informed strategies and decision making processes in our country similar to those in advanced nations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to express my gratitude and appreciation to the Fondazione Mediterraneo and its President, Professor Michele Capasso, as well as its members, for conferring on me the Mediterranean Award for Diplomacy 2014. In my capacity as Director General of the ECSSR, I would like to praise the Fondazione Mediterraneo for the distinguished and effective role it has been playing since it was established in Italy in 1991 in promoting peace, dialog and cooperation between nations. I also commend its efforts in recognizing distinguished personalities, leaders, thinkers and researchers who have largely contributed to promoting the culture of peace and encouraging cultural dialog through its awards such as 'The Mediterranean Award for Diplomacy', 'The Mediterranean Award for Institutions', 'The Mediterranean Award for Civil Society', and 'The Mediterranean Award for Culture'.

On this occasion, I also thank the esteemed members of the scientific and cultural community for attending this ceremony and sharing with me the presentation of one of the most important awards in the Euro-Mediterranean region, which has been conferred on distinguished personalities and heads of states all over the world for their contributions to promoting peace and encouraging dialog between civilizations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The culture of recognizing and rewarding the efforts of others is an important human value and an aspect of civilization. It also has its roots in our local culture and Islamic faith, which encourage us to reward honest and hard workers. Such recognition strengthens the social structure, enhances self-motivation, and leads to achieving social development.

The culture of recognition is an important aspect of performance evaluation in the UAE. Appreciation and gratitude have been a strong foundation of the UAE's federal structure since the days of Founder of the UAE, the Late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan (may God bless his soul). This approach has been furthered by President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan (may God protect him), and is followed under the directives and supervision of His Highness General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and President of the ECSSR.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Receiving the Mediterranean Award for Diplomacy 2014 is a matter of pride for me. This motivates me to make greater efforts, and pushes me toward more achievements. It makes me feel confident that I am on the right track. This recognition, while an honour for me, lays more responsibility on me to continue the efforts for which I was being given the award, namely contributing to closer ties between nations through knowledge-based parallel diplomacy, organizing international forums and various cultural events, and enhancing the culture of scientific research of which the ECSSR has been a key platform in the UAE and the Arab region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finally, I would like to again thank you all for coming and sharing with me this important moment in my academic and professional career. My special thanks go to Dr. Abdel Haq Azzouzi, the academic researcher from the Kingdom of Morocco, who has founded several think tanks and strategic studies centres, and to Dr. Houria Benjelloun. I wish you all the best.