

Foreword

Islamic Economics represents one of the emerging social disciplines and the publication of *Studies in Islamic Economics* is destined to strengthen and advance this process. King Abdul Aziz University had the unique honour and privilege of organising the first International Conference on Islamic Economics in February 1976 at Makka. This conference provided Muslim economists and *Shari'ah* experts ('*U lama'*) with the opportunity jointly to participate in discussions on major issues and themes in economics. It was the first time in contemporary history that these two streams of expertise, represented by professional economists and traditional Islamic scholars, had a chance jointly to reflect on problems of common interest. The Conference constitutes a watershed in the history of Islamic Economics which began in the twentieth century as a branch of *Fiqh* and *Kalam*, and emerged from this conference as a category of economics. A child with the prospect of a great future.

Selected papers from the Conference are being published in two volumes, one in English and the other in Arabic. *Studies in Islamic Economics*, which contains some of the English papers, has been edited by Professor Khurshid Ahmad, who was also Vice-President of the Conference. The companion Arabic volume contains selected Arabic papers and has been edited by Dr. Muhammad Saqr, who also acted as Secretary of the Steering Committee of the Conference. King Abdul Aziz University, its International Centre for Research in Islamic Economics, and I personally take great pride in the publication of these two volumes and pray that Allah may accept these efforts of our colleagues and enable us to continue to serve the cause of Islamic *Da'wah*. I also take this opportunity to express our gratitude to H.E. Shaikh Hasan Al-Shaikh, Minister for Higher Education, for his guidance, support and encouragement and to Dr. Muhammad Omar Zubair, President of the Conference and Former President of King Abdul Aziz University, for the dynamic leadership he provided in organising the Conference and promoting research in Islamic Economics.

President,
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Dr. Abdullah Omar Nasif

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