

Foreward

A year and half ago, the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs in the Sultanate of Oman issued *Al-Tasamoh* quarterly. It was hoped that the quarterly would contribute to the enlightenment and cultural change, and open new vistas for intellectuals among Arabs and Muslims , where they can present their new and promising ideas in the achievement of progress and in dealing with contemporary problems.

Besides these two objectives , there was the interest in communication with international thought for the sake of renovation and vitalization. The Arab Islamic culture has always been universal in its look at the human societies and their problems; in supporting comprehensive human values; and promoting understanding and brotherhood among nations. Hence the human and international relation with the other is a basic component of the message and call of Islam, and in the Arab and Islamic culture based on those principles.

Therefore, The Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs decided to issue two volumes of *Al-Tasamoh* in English for International distribution in order to promote its cultural message, and encourage inter-cultural relations and the advancement of knowledge .

The idea behind the project is to publish articles in English by Arab and Muslim authors , selected from earlier *Al-Tasamoh* issues, as well as articles in Arabic published elsewhere by international authors, on topics related to our culture, or the international cultures we want to communicate with. By

this way we will be able to participate in the culture of the modern world, its progress and security, its open spheres and pluralistic visions .

We hope that the first issue of selected articles from earlier issues in Arabic would encourage healthy dialogue , and that the future issues would develop in direction compatible with the objectives of the periodical .