Mohammad epitomises the vision of Zayed the founder

AWARD RECOGNITION FOR BRINGING CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT IN SOCIETY, OFFICIAL SAYS

ABU DHABI

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Staff Reporters

In recognition of his work and initiatives in promoting the UAE and social causes, His Highness Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has been chosen the Cultural Personality of the Year by the Shaikh Zayed Book Award. The award was announced yesterday at the ninth annual event of the Zayed Book Award, which aims to honour intellectuals, researchers, writers and prominent figures.

Dr Ali bin Tamin, the Award's Secretary-General, praised Sheikh Mohammad for his positive role and influence with the work he has carried out. He said that Sheikh Mohammad is one of the most prominent persons in bringing change and development to all aspects of society.

He also praised Sheikh Mohammad's role in fostering Arab culture and identity as well as his promotion of tolerance and peace. He added that Sheikh Mohammad is a source of optimism and motivation for individuals in all fields, and that he epitomises the vision of Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

Among the many projects and works that were highlighted was the establishment of the Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation, launched by Sheikh Mohammad in 2007 with a $10 billion endowment, with its goal of developing educational standards and research in the Arab World.

Other initiatives that were highlighted was Sheikh Mohammad's work in promoting and preserving Emirati culture, ensuring social justice and welfare, protecting the rights of Arab women, and his focus on creating programmes to help children and young people.

Sheikh Mohammad was congratulated by Sultan Bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan, President of the Abu Dhabi Culture and Tourism Authority, as well as the board of trustees of the Khalifa Book Award.

Prize-winners for the award will receive Dh750,000, as well as a certificate of merit and a gold medal at a ceremony to be held in Abu Dhabi on May 11.