The Sheikh Zayed Book Award is an independent cultural award sponsored by the Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority. The award is presented every year to honour outstanding Arab writers, intellectuals, and publishers as well as young talents whose writing and translation in humanities have objectively enriched Arab scholarship and cultural, literary, and social life.

The award was launched in 2007, in memory of the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may God rest his soul, the founding father of the UAE. Sheikh Zayed was a leader unanimously acknowledged the world over as a symbol of bounty, peace, love, development, and dedication to building his country. A wise futurist with an ever-present, far-reaching vision and perception, he was able to overcome impossible obstacles due to his great intellect, keen insight, and precise contemplation. With a tremendous capacity for guidance and effective impact, he put his time and effort at the service of his desired objectives.
The Sheikh Zayed Book Award was established in 2007 in memory of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, ruler of Abu Dhabi and President of UAE, and his pioneering role in promoting national unity and development.©Shawan's Archive.

Thus the selection of HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai, as the ‘Cultural Personality of the Year’ for the ninth session 2014/2015 by the Sheikh Zayed Book Award is a recognition of his great support of knowledge and culture not only in the Arab World but across the globe. It is a great honour to the United Arab Emirates, as culture and heritage are at the forefront of its concerns, which is witnessed through the implementation of initiatives that promote the identity, language, and heritage.

The award was given in recognition of HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum's distinguished career in the field of cultural development in which he is both a pioneer and torchbearer in order to make the UAE an example of progress, giving, and authentic creativity. His Highness is solely dedicated to promoting culture and creating meaningful dialogue throughout the UAE. Indeed, culture has always shaped his decisions, and his cultural endeavours went beyond the UAE to encompass the rest of Arab and Islamic countries. His Highness is an exceptional personality whose presence is well anchored in the conscience of the entire world, and is a source of inspiration, an example to be followed by leaders and people everywhere. To be honoured by the Sheikh Zayed Book Award is to honour intellectuals and the award itself.

This was stressed by HH General Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, “Our words, poems and achievements speak one language, which is the language of the UAE and is based on the deeply-rooted principles of the late founding fathers; Zayed Bin Sultan and Rashid Bin Saeed. In fact, this honouring today is recognition of their school and celebration of the eloquent UAE language through which we address the world.”

The imprint of His Highness is visible across fields of knowledge, culture, and education. In this respect, he is driven by his exceptional vision of creativity and innovation, both necessary tools for the development of the UAE and the preservation of its achievements. His Highness was able to achieve integration among all elements of excellence in cultural work so that the UAE can be a leader in publishing, film, theatre, art, literature, translation and all that is related to local, Arab, and world culture.

The choice of HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum for this award - that carries a great and cherished name - that of Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, is in itself an honour and praisess the march of development spearheaded by the wise leaders and rulers of our country.