

Quran Memorization Competition Winners Honoured

“And recite the Qur'an in slow, measured rhythmic tones At Muzzammil (73:3)

With a record number of 74 contestants, the 9th Annual Quran Memorization Competition winners were awarded prizes and trophies at the closing ceremony

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Vancouver, BC, CANADA - 17 Jumada Al-Akhirah, 1431- May 31, 2010 The winners of the 9th Annual Quran Memorization Competition were announced and presented with awards and prizes during the closing ceremony at the Islamic Information Center, Vancouver BC on Sunday 16 Jumada Al-Akhirah, 1431 - May 30th, 2010 evening. The Quran Memorization Competition is an annual event organized by the Islamic Information Center to recognize the efforts of BC Muslims, especially the youth, in memorizing the Quran and encouraging them to upgrade their level of competence in reading the Quran.

This year, a record number of 74 contestants actually participated in the Competition including 25 females and 49 males. The contestants' ages spread from 5 to 89 years. Initially 129 persons registered for the Competition as of May 5th, 2010. The Competition was held in two phases: the preliminaries on May 22-23; then the finals on May 29-30. The Competition initially included 7 categories. However, the 10 juz' category was cancelled after the preliminaries due to the low number of participants. All contestants were evaluated both on Hifz (memorization) and Tajweed (application of Quran reading rules).

Next year competition -the 10th Annual Quran Memorization Competition - will be held insha'Allah during the month of April 2011. The online registration would be open on January 1st, 2011. The exact dates and details will be announced in future communications.

Mourad Chergui, speaking on behalf of the Competition Organizing Committee thanked and congratulated the contestants, their parents and teachers for their efforts in memorizing the Quran. He also expressed appreciation for the relentless efforts of the volunteers and the judging panel who put together a successful event.

The judging panel that oversaw the competition was comprised of qualified hafiths and scholars, and headed by sheikh Ahmed Zaki al-Qaysi who holds four International Licenses in Quran Readings (Qira'at), among which a License in the ten ways of recitation via Shatibiyah and another License via Dourah. In addition, to sheikh al-Qaysi the panel included the following

brothers: Salhudin Zubair, Mohaned Shaibani, Yaser Dawood, Abdulah al-Salam, Saleh al-Shamarani and Osman Mohamed; and sisters: um Ahmad, um Amar and Haleema.

During this award ceremony sheikh Ahmed Zaki al-Qaysi presented five individuals with Ijaza certificates in the Qira'at. Sheikh al-Qaysi stressed out the importance of maintaining, preserving and protecting the unique knowledge of Quran qira'ats. Since the Quran and qira'at have come from Allah ta'ala, He has promised to protect the Quran along with meaning, style scripts and qira'at. The recipients of Ijaza in the Qira'at are:

- Ijaaza according to the recitation of Asim Al-Kufi and his two narrators Shubah and Hafs:
 - brother Hamid Bilal
 - brother Abderrazak Boujenane
 - sister Manal Mohamed Mustafa (um Ahmed)
 - sister Haleema Mahmood Osman
- Ijaaza according to the recitation of Abu Amru al-Basry and his two narrators al-Doory and al-Soossy:
 - brother Osman Mohamed

The recipient of “New Muslim Category” prize was sister Marie Novak who is 89 years old. She reverted to Islam only last February. During the ceremony she gave a touching speech where she mentioned how she was guided to the right path and talked about her feelings and emotions embracing the true religion of Allah.

The Competition first three winners from each category were presented with trophies and cash prizes. Extra winners from each category were selected to receive special prizes. Additionally, all the contestants who participated in the Competition received gifts during the ceremony. Yet, the reward from Allah for those who memorize and recite the Qur'an is unparalleled and unmatched.

The 9th Annual Quran Memorization Competition – Award Winners

5 juz' Category (all ages)	
<i>1st Award</i>	Daud Nooh
<i>2nd Award</i>	Amin Karroum
<i>3rd Award</i>	Ahmed Qazi
<i>4th Award</i>	Farhaan Ali
<i>5th Award</i>	Hamzah Ibrahim
<i>6th Award</i>	Aamir Sheergar

3 juz' Category (up to 16 years old)	
<i>1st Award</i>	Abdulahman Sadiq
<i>2nd Award</i>	Ahmed Guura
<i>3rd Award</i>	Batool Rayyan

2 juz' Category (up to 13 years old)	
<i>1st Award</i>	Israa Sadiq
<i>2nd Award</i>	Omar Rayyan
<i>3rd Award</i>	Ahmad Ahmad
<i>4th Award</i>	Haziq Hafeez

1 juz' Category (up to 11 years old)	
<i>1st Award</i>	Hafsah Sahibzada
<i>2nd Award</i>	Ammar Dawood
<i>3rd Award</i>	Umer Ahmad
<i>4th Award</i>	Heba Ghrebi

½ juz' Category (up to 9 years old)	
<i>1st Award</i>	Muhammad Sadiq
<i>2nd Award</i>	Munir Rahimyar
<i>3rd Award</i>	Rahma Khan
<i>4th Award</i>	Ahmad Sadiq

New Muslim Category	
	Marie Novac

For more information about the 9th Annual Quran Memorization Competition including pictures, please visit: quran.islamicinfocenter.org

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