

Winners' Book

Distinguished President of the World Cultural Council, honorable Rector Magnificus of Leiden University, your Excellencies, 2017 laureates; Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am honoured to address to you, on behalf of the World Cultural Council and its Interdisciplinary Committee and to present the Winners' book.

For 34 years this book has travelled the world. Each page bears witness to exceptional men and women who have had positive impact on science, arts and education for the benefit of humanity.

The Winners' book is highly symbolic. It is a legacy to be handed on to the future. The book comprises a compendium of eminent names, of those who have inspired us and encouraged us to go further in our own respective fields.

We recognize them not only as remarkable scientists, educators and artists, but also as exceptional individuals who generously share their time, skills, capacities and vision with others so that we can all learn and go forward to bring about more positive achievements for this planet.

Every year a new page is signed; a new chapter is written. History is made before our eyes. Looking through this book is like opening a treasure-trove of gleaming jewels and it documents the sparkling feats of men and women driven by conviction, creativity, and perseverance.

I would now like to ask the winner of the 2017 Albert Einstein World Award of Science, **Professor Omar Yaghi, Professor of Chemistry, University of California-Berkeley**, to come to the stage to sign the Winners' Book in the company of our witnesses of honour: Rector Carel Stolker and President Sir Colin Blakemore.

And now it is my pleasure to ask the winner of the 2017 Leonardo da Vinci World Award of Arts, **Russell Hartenberger, Professor Emeritus of Ethnomusicology and Percussion, University of Toronto**, to sign the Winners' Book in the presence of our witnesses of honour.

A new chapter in the history of the World Cultural Council has now been completed. On behalf of the members of the World Cultural Council interdisciplinary jury, I would like to thank rector Stolker and his team from Leiden University for their efforts and for opening up this remarkable venue for this year's Awards ceremony. I would like to express my congratulations to the laureates, the special recognition awardees and wish you further fulfilment for the future.