

# WORLD CULTURAL COUNCIL 2016 AWARD CEREMONY

## Winners' Book

Presented by René Asomoza Palacio, Member of the WCC and Director  
General, Latin American Institute for Educational Communication  
(ILCE), Mexico

Riga Technical University 154th Anniversary

Friday 14th October in Ziedonis Hall, National Library of Latvia

Distinguished President of the World Cultural Council, Sir Colin Blakemore; honorable Rector of the Riga Technical University, Leonīds Ribickis; laureates 2016; dear guests, ladies and gentlemen.

I feel very honoured to address to you, on behalf of the World Cultural Council and its Interdisciplinary Committee, about the Winners' book, which has been all over the globe, bearing on each page, year after year, the seal of noteworthy men and women who have been working for the enhancement of the humanity.

The Winners' book is highly symbolic for us, a legacy for the future, which recognizes the achievements of highly distinguished people who have inspired and encouraged us to be creative and work for the benefit of mankind. We distinguish not only remarkable scientists, educators and artists, but also exceptional individuals who generously share their time and skills with others so that we can all learn and go forward to produce limitless positive achievements.

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

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I would now like to ask winner of the Albert Einstein World Award of Science 2016, **Professor Edward Witten, Charles Simonyi Professor of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey, USA**, to come onto the stage to sign the Winners' Book in the company of our witnesses of honour: Rector Leonīds Ribickis and President Sir Colin Blakemore.

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And now it is my pleasure to ask the winner of the José Vasconcelos World Award of Education 2016, **Professor Kalevi Ekman**, Professor of Machine Design, at the School of Engineering, Aalto University, Finland, to sign the Winners' Book along with the same witnesses of honour.

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We have been witnesses of the creation of a new page of the Winners' Book, testifying sound and remarkable scientific and educational contributions to the welfare of mankind. This has special relevance because our host institution celebrates its 154th anniversary. I would like to express my congratulations to the Rector and its community and wish them the best for the future.