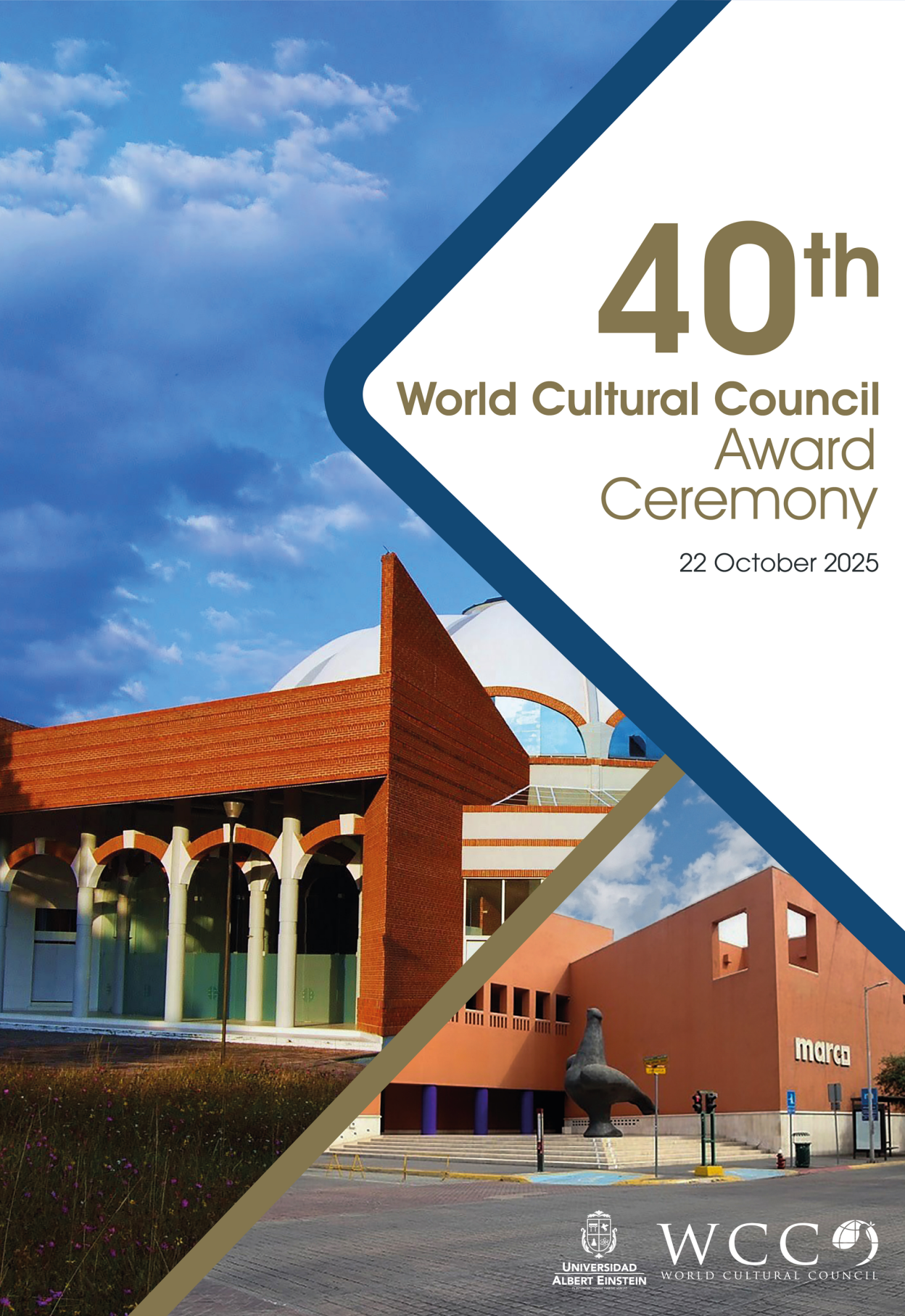




40th

World Cultural Council Award Ceremony

22 October 2025



UNIVERSIDAD
ALBERT EINSTEIN

WCCO 
WORLD CULTURAL COUNCIL

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Invitation

Albert Einstein University and the World Cultural Council (WCC) are honored to invite you to the 40th World Cultural Council Award Ceremony, which will be held at the Auditorium of Museo de Arte Contemporáneo (MARCO), one of the most important cultural centers in Latin America, located in the city of Monterrey, Nuevo León.

On this occasion the 2025 Albert Einstein World Award of Science will be bestowed on

Professor Mercouri G. Kanatzidis,

Charles E. and Emma H. Morrison Professor in the Department of Chemistry and the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at Northwestern University, USA.

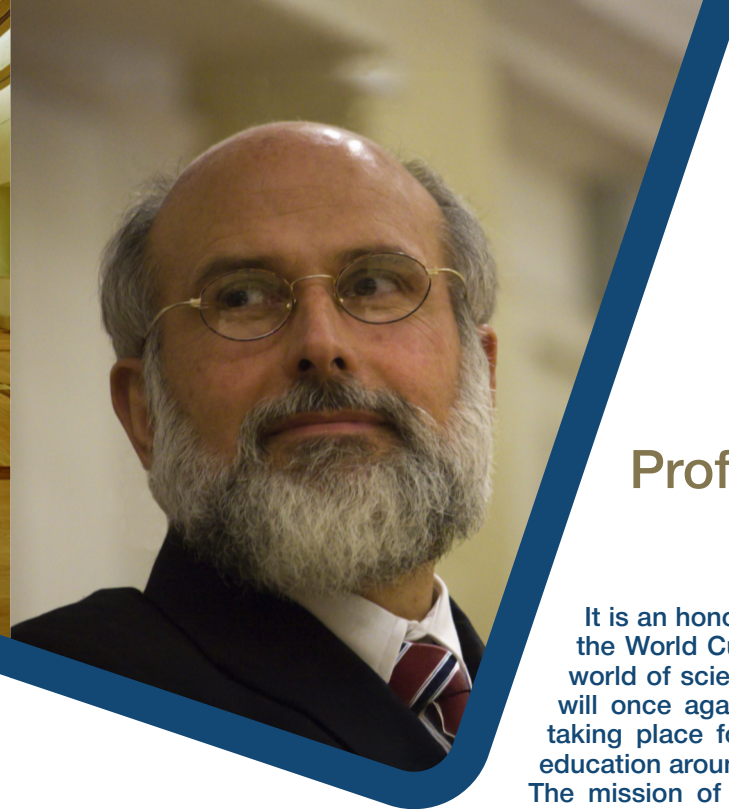


40th Award Ceremony of the World Cultural Council

Date: 22 October

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Location: Auditorium of Museo de Arte Contemporáneo (MARCO)



Welcome Message

Professor Alvaro Guerra

Rector, Albert Einstein University

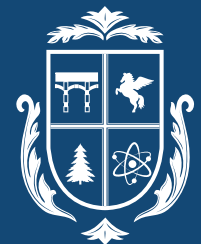
It is an honour to host the 40th Award Ceremony of the World Cultural Council, a landmark event in the world of science, art, and education. The Ceremony will once again be held in Monterrey, Mexico, after taking place for 40 years in leading seats of higher education around the globe.

The mission of Universidad Albert Einstein is evident in the name of its educational model: "Peace education with a human development approach." Accordingly, its

classrooms foster the ethical values of respect and understanding as the cornerstones of harmonious coexistence and sustainable development. We firmly believe that the paradigm of development must be reformulated to take into account our interaction with the ecology of the planet, along with its relationship to social ecology. However, the social and planetary dimensions of development cannot be constructed without the foundation of a personal ecosystem rooted in ethical values. Hence, the importance of an education that does not only consider professional competencies but also creates the conditions for nurturing sensitivity, resilience, and care. These are the qualities that, in addition to intelligence, define scientists.

The laureate of the 2025 Albert Einstein World Award for Science is Professor Mercouri Kanatzidis, whose pioneering work in semiconducting halide perovskites has brought us more efficient and more affordable photovoltaic cells for electricity production, based on solar energy. His breakthroughs have opened new fields of research and marked a milestone in the evolution of the renewable energy industry.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2025 Award Ceremony, when we will celebrate the valuable work of Dr. Kanatzidis, who has demonstrated that, with creativity and selfless labour, solutions can be found to the challenges facing the advancement of humankind today.



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Welcome Message

Professor Omar M. Yaghi

President, World Cultural Council

I wish to warmly welcome you to this year's World Cultural Council Awards Ceremony, a distinguished gathering dedicated to celebrating the contributions of some of the world's most accomplished and creative minds in science.

At the heart of this year's ceremony is the recognition of an individual whose work has had a lasting and transformative impact on humanity. The World Cultural Council was founded on the belief that culture and scientific advancement are essential to building a more just, compassionate, and sustainable global society. Laureates are selected for their exceptional achievements — not only for their groundbreaking discoveries or creative excellence but for the ways in which their work uplifts human potential and serves the greater good.

This year's laureate, Professor Mercouri Kanatzidis of Northwestern University, represents the highest ideals of innovation and intellectual courage. He has expanded the frontiers of knowledge, inspired new generations, and contributed meaningfully to a better and more inclusive world. His accomplishments are testaments to the enduring power of culture and science to unite us, to challenge us, and to propel us forward.

We are also honored to celebrate this occasion in partnership with the Universidad Albert Einstein (UAE) of Mexico, whose educational mission closely reflects the values of the Council. UAE's visionary model, "Education for Peace from the Perspective of Human Development," emphasizes integrity, empathy, diversity, and ethical leadership — principles that resonate with the purpose and spirit of today's celebration.

As you take part in this special event, we invite you to reflect on the extraordinary impact of our laureate and the importance of supporting creativity, scholarship, and cultural understanding across all boundaries.

Thank you for joining us in honoring this exceptional individual and for sharing in our vision of a world made better through knowledge, compassion, and human achievement.

Omar M. Yaghi

Photo by Christopher Michel



About the World Cultural Council



The World Cultural Council (WCC) is an international organization, founded in Mexico, that promotes the progress of science, culture, and education to enrich human life and help solve the multiple problems facing the planet. It seeks to foster collaboration, understanding, diversity, and sustainable development among individuals, academia, and communities, and to celebrate the achievements of human creativity while respecting differences between people and peoples.

The primary means by which the WCC accomplishes its mission is through its Annual Award Ceremony, at which it awards remarkable individuals for their accomplishments in the fields of science, education, and culture.

Since 1984, its award ceremonies have been hosted by leading universities and institutions across the globe. Moving the ceremony each year underscores the Council's international scope and its determination to foster cultural and scientific exchange worldwide.

Albert Einstein World Award of Science

The Albert Einstein World Award of Science was created as a means of recognition for scientists who have accomplished scientific and technological achievements which have brought progress to science and benefit to humankind. In addition to considering the winners' breakthrough achievements, the jury also considers the service which each has made to humankind and their qualities as a role model who inspires future generations to contribute to a better world.

The prize is given annually and consists of a diploma, a commemorative medal, and an award cheque.



Previous Awards Ceremonies

Year	City	Region	Institution
2025	Monterrey	Mexico	Albert Einstein University
2024	Montreal	Canada	McGill University
2023	Helsinki	Finland	University of Helsinki
2022	Coimbra	Portugal	University of Coimbra
2019	Tsukuba	Japan	University of Tsukuba
2018	Hong Kong	China	City University of Hong Kong
2017	Leiden	The Netherlands	Leiden University
2016	Riga	Latvia	Riga Technical University
2015	Dundee	UK	University of Dundee
2014	Otaniemi	Finland	Aalto University
2013	Singapore	Singapore	Nanyang Technological University
2012	Aarhus	Denmark	Aarhus University
2011	Tartu	Estonia	Tartu University
2010	Toluca	Mexico	Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México
2009	Liège	Belgium	University of Liège
2008	Princeton	USA	Princeton University
2007	Monterrey	Mexico	Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León
2006	Mexico City	Mexico	Instituto Politécnico Nacional
2005	Saltillo	Mexico	Universidad Autónoma Agraria Antonio Narro
2004	Liège	Belgium	University of Liège

Year	City	Region	Institution
2003	Helsinki	Finland	University of Helsinki, Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters, and The National Archives of Finland
2002	Dublin	Ireland	University of Dublin
2001	Utrecht	The Netherlands	Utrecht University
2000	Johannesburg	South Africa	University of the Witwatersrand
1999	Trondheim	Norway	Norwegian University of Science and Technology
1998	Wellington	New Zealand	Victoria University of Wellington
1997	Bangkok	Thailand	Chulalongkorn University
1996	Oxford	UK	University of Oxford
1995	Mexico City	Mexico	INBA, CONACULTA, Palacio de Bellas Artes
1994	Chambery	France	CODATA, ICSU, UNESCO
1993	Mexico City	Mexico	Presidencia de la República
1992	Ottawa	Canada	National Research Council
1991	Canberra	Australia	Australian National University
1990	Zurich	Switzerland	Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule
1989	Cambridge	USA	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
1988	Mexico City	Mexico	Instituto Politécnico Nacional
1987	Heidelberg	Germany	Universität Heidelberg
1986	Guadalajara	Mexico	Universidad de Guadalajara
1985	Stockholm	Sweden	Royal Institute of Technology
1984	Monterrey	Mexico	World Cultural Council

2025 Albert Einstein World Award of Science Laureate

The winner of the 2025 Albert Einstein World Award of Science is Professor Mercuri G. Kanatzidis, Charles E. and Emma H. Morrison Professor in the Department of Chemistry and the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at Northwestern University, USA. He is also a Senior Scientist at Argonne National Laboratory.

Professor Kanatzidis is recognized for his groundbreaking contributions as a pioneer in shaping the field of solar photovoltaic materials through his seminal work on halide perovskite semiconductors. He has made fundamental contributions for creating materials enabling key and sustainable energy conversion technologies.

The World Cultural Council (WCC) acknowledges the outstanding contributions of Professor Kanatzidis toward launching the so-called “perovskite era” of high-performance, low-cost, and durable photovoltaic semiconductors as a transformative development in solar energy conversion. Following his historic publication in 2012 where he demonstrated an all-solid-state solar cell based on halide perovskite, hundreds of research groups studying these materials have been established worldwide. His follow-up landmark publication in 2014 has led to the development of tandem photovoltaic solar cells with significantly higher efficiencies. WCC jury members noted that Professor Kanatzidis is an undisputed global leader in developing key technologies toward the next generation of solar cells and has played a key role in establishing perovskite halides in photovoltaic applications as a new field of science.



His work exemplifies the power of scientific innovation and collaboration to address pressing global challenges, such as climate change and energy sustainability.

Mercouri Kanatzidis is a highly cited scientist and innovator, with 1,650 publications, more than 200,000 citations and 60 patents.

Born in Greece, Mercouri received his BS degree from Aristotle University and his PhD from the University of Iowa. Since 2006 he has been a Professor of Chemistry at Northwestern University.

WCC Founder and President Emeritus José Estrada states, “Professor Kanatzidis is an extraordinary and visionary scientist whose deep insights have led to transformative innovations in the field of solar energy conversion. His work contributes greatly toward a more sustainable world. Having guided more than 80 undergraduates, 96 doctoral students and 140 post-doctoral fellows, Mercouri Kanatzidis has distinguished himself as a respected mentor of a new generation of academic leaders.”

The late Sir Fraser Stoddart, former President of the World Cultural Council affirmed, “Kanatzidis’s groundbreaking contributions to energy science and his tireless dedication to mentorship make him one of the most gifted and influential scientists of our time.”

“This is an incredible honor to receive the 2025 Albert Einstein World Award of Science. I am deeply grateful to the World Cultural Council for this extraordinary recognition.”

Professor Mercuri G. Kanatzidis

About Albert Einstein University

Albert Einstein University (UAE) is an institution of higher learning in the fields of science and humanities, distinguished by its commitment to academic and ethical excellence.

It was founded with the objective of preparing researchers and professionals who are capable of advancing their respective disciplines through an ethical framework rooted in human development.

The University is sponsored by foundations that promote scientific and educational initiatives around the world. It is also a member of the University Network for Science and Philosophy, which brings together institutions from various countries committed to the shared mission of cultivating the foundations of peace in the minds of young people.

Albert Einstein University maintains strategic partnerships and cooperation agreements with institutions across the globe, providing valuable opportunities for professional development and international experience to its students and graduates.

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For further details about the event, please visit:
uae.edu.mx/WCCAward2025

Related links:

consejoculturalmundial.org
uae.edu.mx

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