

WCC Award Ceremony

Welcoming address

Nov 17, 2014 at 13.23

Aalto University President Tuula Teeri

It is a great honor and pleasure for me to be opening this Award Ceremony that inspires us on this dreary November day. I most warmly welcome you all to Aalto University.

Today we are gathered at the very heart of Finnish technology and design. This lecture theater and the whole building were designed by architect Alvar Aalto, after whom our university is named. In his campus plan, Alvar Aalto placed this building in a very visible, central location. The building is situated on one of the seven hills of the area, at the end of a row of lime trees. It is the proud center of our campus. This auditorium is the landmark feature of the building, placing the main missions of a university, sharing knowledge and learning, in focus.

Finland has put high stakes on research and innovation politics during the last few years. The key element of this has been our university reform and the founding of Aalto University as its flagship.

Aalto University is strongly future-oriented. Our goal is to be a world class university by 2020 in research, art, education and societal impact in our own fields, science, technology, business and design. We are building on the combined 300-year-history of our founding universities but creating a culture of resilience that allows us to break paradigms for future success of Finland in a rapidly changing world facing grave challenges. We invest in excellence in everything we do, joining forces between disciplines, working in close collaboration with industry and business and educating new talent to recreate our future.

Scientific knowledge, education and culture are the very foundation of the success and wellbeing of mankind. The World Cultural Council has worked for decades to recognize the pioneers in these areas, making their contributions visible. Today we are celebrating two prominent pioneers and six young talents that are all contributing to a better future for us all.

**Once again, I welcome you to Aalto University and the 31<sup>st</sup> Award Ceremony of the World Cultural Council!**

## Closing words

I want to congratulate this year's Laureates, Professor Sir Philip Cohen and Professor Federico Rosei for their outstanding achievements in research and education for the benefit of mankind.

I also want to congratulate the winners of the six Special recognitions, Camilla Hollanti, Katri Kauppi, Mauri Kostiainen, Matti Kuittinen, Jani Romanoff and Hele Savin, who early in their careers have had international impact through their research.

We are all impressed and humbled by your achievements, and wish you all continued success in your outstanding efforts to explore the unknown thereby finding new solutions and opportunities to better the world.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our excellent Events Team for orchestrating this event, the Polytech orchestra for the beautiful music performance and our student Marianna Robinson for the visual art of this event.

I thank the World Cultural Council for the opportunity to host this distinguished ceremony, and I thank you all for sharing this precious moments with us.

Thank you!