

Professor Klaus Schwab

1971

Founder and Executive Chairman, World Economic Forum

The World Economic Forum, committed to improving the state of the world, is the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation. The Forum engages the foremost political, business and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

The World Economic Forum today is the foremost global multistakeholder organisation, employing more than 600 people in Geneva, New York, Beijing and Tokyo.

1998

Co-Founder, together with his wife Hilde, Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship

The Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship provides unparalleled platforms at the regional and global level to highlight and advance leading models of sustainable social innovation. It identifies a select community of social entrepreneurs and engages it in shaping global, regional and industry agendas that improve the state of the world in close collaboration with the other stakeholders of the World Economic Forum.

2004

Founder, Forum of the Young Global Leaders

The Forum of Young Global Leaders (YGL) is a multistakeholder community (30 to 40 years old) of exceptional young leaders who share a commitment to shaping the global future. Each year, the World Economic Forum identifies 100 extraordinary individuals worldwide to join the YGL community for five years. Today, they form a powerful international community of over 1,000 young leaders having a significant impact on our global future.

2011

Founder, Global Shapers Community

The Global Shapers Community is a global network of local communities ("hubs") of young people (20 to 30 years old) who are exceptional in their potential, achievements and drive to make a contribution to their communities. Hubs are based in each major city around the world. There are currently over 450 hubs established globally. The community is vitalized by the manifold interactions generated within each hub, between hubs and on a global level.

EDUCATION

1957 Graduated from the Humanistisches Gymnasium in Ravensburg, Germany

1962 Dipl. Ing., Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, Switzerland

1963 Lic.ès.sc.écon. et soc. (summa cum laude) University of Fribourg, Switzerland

1966 Doctorate in Engineering (Dr. Sc. Tech.), Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, Switzerland

1967 Doctorate in Economics (Dr.rer.pol.), University of Fribourg, Switzerland

1967 Master of Public Administration, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, USA

EARLY CAREER

1958-1962 Experience on the shop floor of several companies

1963-1966 Assistant to the Director-General of the German Machine-building Association (VDMA), Frankfurt

1967-1970 Member, Managing Board, Sulzer Escher Wyss AG, Zurich, a manufacturing company with activities in several countries and over 10,000 employees

SELECTED FORMER ACTIVITIES

1972-2003 Professor for Business Policy, University of Geneva, Switzerland
After 2003 Honorary Professor, University of Geneva, Switzerland
1993-1995 Member, United Nations High-Level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development
1996-1998 Vice-Chairman, United Nations Committee for Development Planning

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Honorary Professor, Foreign Affairs University, Beijing, People's Republic of China
Honorary Professor, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel
Member, Global Advisory Board of the University of Tokyo, Japan
Member of the Royal Academy of Morocco, North Africa
Honorary Director, World Economy Research Center, Nankai University, Tianjin, People's Republic of China
Member, International Advisory Council, Bocconi University, Milan, Italy
Chairman of the Advisory Board, Geneva School of Economics and Management, Switzerland

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Pioneer of breakthrough concepts, including:

- multistakeholder approach
- public private partnerships
- social entrepreneurship
- corporate global citizenship
- fourth industrial revolution

EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES

Author of the annual Global Competitiveness Report (since 1979), numerous articles and several books.

His latest books are The Fourth Industrial Revolution (2016), a worldwide bestseller translated into 30 languages, and Shaping the Fourth Industrial Revolution (2018).

SELECTED OTHER ACTIVITIES

Trustee, The Peres Center For Peace, Tel Aviv, Israel
Member of the Board, Lucerne Festival, Lucerne, Switzerland
Founding Member, Climate Leadership Council

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND HONORARY DOCTORATES (DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA)

1991 Honorary Doctorate of Bishop's University, Lennoxville, Québec, Canada
1992 Honorary Doctorate of Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara, Mexico
1996 Honorary Doctorate of Economic University Bratislava, Slovak Republic
1999 Honorary Doctorate of Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne, Switzerland
1999 Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beersheva, Israel
2002 Honorary Doctorate of Science of London School of Economics and Political Science, London, United Kingdom
2008 Honorary Doctorate of Humanities Kazan State University, Tatarstan
2009 Honorary Doctorate of the University of Latvia
2009 Honorary Doctorate of the European Business School, Germany
2009 Honorary Doctorate of Nankai University, Tianjin, People's Republic of China
2010 Honorary Doctorate of Economics of the Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City
2011 Honorary Doctorate of Economics of the University of Lausanne, Switzerland
2012 Honorary Doctorate of Business Administration of Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
2015 Honorary Doctorate of Science of KAIST, Daejeon, Republic of Korea
2017 Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy of Haifa University, Israel
2017 Honorary Doctorate of Letters of the National University of Singapore
2017 Honorary Doctorate of Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania

NATIONAL DISTINCTIONS

1988 Cross of the National Order of Merit of Germany
1995 Commander's Cross of the National Order of Merit of Germany
1997 Knight of the Légion d'Honneur of France
1997 Golden Grand Cross of the National Order of Austria
1997 Medal of Freedom of the Republic of Slovenia
2002 National Order of the Republic of Poland, Commander's Cross with Star
2002 Highest-level Order of Friendship of the Republic of Kazakhstan
2003 Order of Stara Planina, First Class, Bulgaria
2005 Decoration of First Degree for Outstanding Giving, Jordan
2006 Knighted by H.M. Queen Elizabeth II: Knight Commander of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George (KCMG)
2008 Award "For merits to the Republic of Lithuania", Degree - Commander's Cross
2011 Order of the Polar Star of the Mongolian People's Republic
2012 Grand Cross with Star of the National Order of Merit of Germany
2012 Mexican Order del Aguila Azteca
2013 Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun of Japan
2014 Colombian Order of San Carlos
2018 Friendship Medal for outstanding contribution to 40 years of China's reform and opening policies

SELECTED AWARDS (SINCE 2000)

2000 Annual Award of the International Institute of Education
2000 Annual Award and Fellow of the Foreign Policy Association, USA
2001 Candlelight Award presented by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan
2002 Annual Award of the Fondation pour Genève
2002 Guggenheim Humanitarian Award
2002 ICCJ – International Council of Christians and Jews Award
2004 Dan David Prize, Tel Aviv University
2005 Transatlantic Bridge Award
2006 Freedom of the City of London
2006 UCD Ulysses Medal , University College Dublin, Ireland
2007 Admission into the German Business Hall of Fame
2010 Atlantic Council Global Citizen Award
2016 Reinhard Mohn Prize for Responsible Entrepreneurship
2016 Progress Medal, Society for Progress, INSEAD
2018 Global Economy Prize, Kiel Institute for the World Economy

PERSONAL

Born 30 March 1938 in Ravensburg, Germany
Married with Hilde Schwab since 1971
Two children: Olivier born in 1973 and Nicole born in 1975