



 World Economic Forum

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## Professor Klaus Schwab is the Recipient of the 2016 Reinhard Mohn Prize

**This year's Reinhard Mohn Prize will be awarded to Professor Klaus Schwab, founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum. With the prize, the Bertelsmann Stiftung honors his commitment to promoting responsible entrepreneurship. Klaus Schwab will be awarded the prize worth €200,000 at a ceremony in Gütersloh on June 16.**

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### CONTACT PERSON



Birgit Riess

Klaus Schwab was one of the first to recognize that businesses, in an increasingly globalized and interconnected world, have a unique economic and social responsibility to society, says Liz Mohn, Vice Chair of the Bertelsmann Stiftung's executive board.

In the early 1970s, Klaus Schwab developed his concept of the multistakeholder approach in which all stakeholders are to be served by an enterprise aiming to ensure long-term success. This approach, he has argued, demands that bridges be built between business, policymakers and civil society – and across national borders.

According to a statement released by the Bertelsmann Stiftung announcing the prize, in founding the World Economic Forum, Schwab created a unique platform to promote dialog between business, political and civil society leaders on urgent issues challenging the world today. By implementing the multistakeholder approach, Schwab was far ahead of his time. The World Economic Forum in Geneva – now an internationally recognized organization with offices in New York, Peking and Tokyo – plays a key role in raising awareness of the changing expectations of businesses and their role in society. "Klaus Schwab understands better than most how to bring together people of the most diverse backgrounds to shape together a rapidly changing world," says Liz Mohn.

Klaus Schwab's leadership has brought about several key initiatives involving public-private cooperation that have resulted in the formulation of concrete solutions to trenchant problems. The World Economic Forum, for example, was where the UN Global Compact was called to life with then-UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who received the Reinhard Mohn Prize in 2013. The UN Global Compact is today the world's largest network of changemakers committed to responsible business. The World Economic Forum has also been the catalyst for public-private initiatives with broad impact such as the Global Fund to fight Aids, tuberculosis and malaria, the Grow Africa partnership and the Gavi vaccine alliance, which has vaccinated more than 200 million children worldwide.

In 1998, Klaus Schwab and his wife Hilde established the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship in 1998. At the time, addressing social challenges with entrepreneurial means was an underappreciated idea. Together, Klaus Schwab and his wife were instrumental in promoting the concept of social entrepreneurship throughout and beyond Europe.

### **About the Reinhard Mohn Prize**

The Reinhard Mohn Prize is awarded in honor of Bertelsmann Stiftung founder Reinhard Mohn († October 2009). The prize is awarded every year to an exceptional, globally active individual who has played a key role in creating solutions to social and political issues. Within the framework of identifying and selecting a prize recipient, the Bertelsmann Stiftung conducts a worldwide search for innovative concepts and solutions to sustainability challenges with relevance for Germany. The theme for this year's prize "responsible entrepreneurship," is also the subject of the Reinhard Mohn Symposium held in May 2016. The award ceremony for the Reinhard Mohn Prize will take place at 11 am on June 16 in the Gütersloh theater.

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