

University of Haifa

The Senate of the University of Haifa, by virtue of the authority vested in it by the constitution of the University and in accordance with the recommendations of the President and the Executive Committee

hereby confers upon

Doron Livnat

the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy, Honoris Causa

In recognition of his outstanding leadership, which blends business success and far-reaching public and social activity; on his assistance to disadvantaged groups in society, out of an understanding and belief that strengthening them is the best guarantee of a more moral, just and successful society; on the contribution to promoting study and research of the Holocaust at the University of Haifa to preserve the memory of the Holocaust and pass the narrative on to future generations; on the continued support of the "Access for All" program and its impact on Israeli society; and on his being an ambassador for the University of Haifa all around the world.

Conferred in 1 Sivan 5776/June 7, 2016
Haifa, Israel



Ami Ayalon

Chairman of the Executive Committee



Amos Shapira

President



Prof. David Faraggi

Rector



DORON LIVNAT

Doron Livnat was born in Israel in 1955. From his earliest youth he expressed a strong sense of social justice, and had a particularly strong desire to 'Repair the World' (Tikkun Olam). While still in high school, he found a way to help others and motivate them to move forward in their lives and achieve their goals. "I learned about giving and empowering others in my parents' home – these were the values of my family," Doron recalls.

He joined the "Youth for Youth" youth movement and even headed it, while devoting hours and days to activities for the absorption of new immigrants and the training of delinquent youth through rehabilitation processes to get them ready for a life of taking responsibility and social independence.

In 1977 he was released from the IDF after completing his active service as an officer.

Doron completed his university studies in Germany. He is also a graduate of Harvard Business School's Senior Executive Program. He began his business career in a managerial role at the "Taavura" Group, Israel's largest road haulage and logistics services company, which was founded by his father and uncle.

In 1986 Doron moved to Holland where he joined his father-in-law's international firm, which operates and rents earth-moving equipment and cranes. Today he serves as Chairman of the international holding company Pro-Delta Holdings, which is domiciled in the Netherlands.

Despite his many activities, and splitting his time between Israel and the Netherlands, Doron continues to devote his attention to a broad range of social causes.

Among other things, he is involved in the Shanti House Association (which provides a warm home to youth at risk); Sapir College in the Negev; the MAOZ Association; the Ayalim Association; MATAN - Investing in the Community; one of the founders of the NaLaga'at Center (Please Touch) in Yafo; the Bialik Rogozin School in Tel Aviv; the Peres Center for Peace; the Tovnat B'Hinuch Association – "Insights in Education"; the Shahaf Foundation, and the Access for All program, which also operates at the University of Haifa, to make academic studies accessible to weaker populations. "It's a way of life for me," he explains when asked how he manages to combine so many activities in such a tight schedule, "I am involved from A to Z in every commitment that I take upon myself."

Doron's social entrepreneurship philosophy holds that the ability to overcome a sense of victimhood, and find the will and the power to move forward, are what separate success and failure: "We are pleased to provide opportunity to anyone who wants help, and is willing to be helped," according to Doron.

Doron Livnat is the son of Holocaust survivor Yitzhak Weiss-Livnat. Doron believes the Holocaust should be regarded as a world in itself, separate from any other historical event that has taken place in modern times – that there is no room whatsoever to compare it to any other genocide in the history of mankind. It is paramount, in his view, to act at many levels, and use diverse means to explain the Holocaust and remind of its horrors, as well as to design the Holocaust memory, so as to bring about a better future. With this in mind, Doron Livnat has also added to his public endeavor a donation to the Weiss-Livnat International MA Program in Holocaust Studies at the University of Haifa, the only graduate program in Israel for Holocaust research. Graduates of the program, he believes, will learn the lessons of the past and acquire the tools of the present to build and nurture future generations.