

## 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

**Klaus M. Schwab**

the degree of

### **Doctor of Philosophy, Honoris Causa**

In recognition of his inspired leadership and enduring contribution to international society; on the establishment of the World Economic Forum, engaging business, political, academic and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas; on identifying exceptional young leaders who share a commitment to shaping the global future; on the avant-garde synthesis of academic excellence in business, economics and political practice; and in appreciation and gratitude for his warm and longstanding friendship with the State of Israel.

Conferred on 12 Sivan 5777/June 6, 2017  
Haifa, Israel



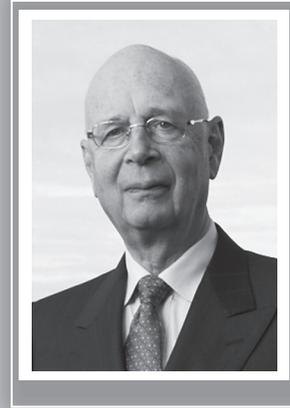
**Mooly Eden**  
Chairman of the Executive Committee



**Prof. Ron Robin**  
President



**Prof. Gustavo Mesch**  
Rector



## PROFESSOR KLAUS M. SCHWAB

Klaus Martin Schwab was born in 1938 in Germany.

Prior to founding the World Economic Forum, for which he is perhaps best known, Prof. Schwab started out on an academic path. He completed his doctoral studies in 1966 with a PhD in Engineering from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, and a year later also received a PhD in Economics from the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. Prof. Schwab did not stop there. During that year, he added to his list of academic degrees an MPA in Public Administration from Harvard University. It would come as no surprise when, in 1972, he was appointed Professor of Economics at the University of Geneva. In fact, he was one of the three youngest professors to have received such an appointment. When he retired 30 years later, he was made an Honorary Professor of Economics by the University.

In parallel with his academic career, Prof. Schwab also had a business career, and served as a member of the Executive Board of one of the largest companies in Switzerland.

In 1971, he decided to establish a European forum called the European Management Forum, with the aim of connecting the business and public sectors so they could discuss management-related issues. Prof. Schwab's purpose was to bring about a situation where, in addition to discussing business matters such as profits and shares, the Forum could also address aspects of the welfare of workers and the business sector's contribution to society. The Forum very quickly became an important focal point of interest, but its worldwide recognition was achieved in 1974, when a number of global events, including the Yom Kippur War, led to a change in the focus of its discussions – from issues in the field of management to economic, political and social issues. In subsequent years, the Forum's status grew in strength, and it became a knowledge hub, producing information on global economic and competitiveness issues. In order to better reflect its purpose, as of 1987 the Forum was re-named as the World Economic Forum, and today it serves as the central gathering place for international leaders from the three sectors – namely, the political, business and public sectors, where they come together to discuss issues that affect humanity in general.

The great success of the Economic Forum notwithstanding, Prof. Schwab did not rest on his laurels. In 1998, together with his wife, Hilde, he founded the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, which identifies and supports communities attempting to promote social issues.

In 2004, Prof. Schwab founded the Forum of Young Global Leaders, and in 2011, the Global Shapers Community. The desire to promote borderless international activity, for the benefit of all humanity, is a thread running through all that Prof. Schwab undertakes.

During the course of his wide-ranging and inspirational career, Prof. Schwab has been honored with countless distinctions and awards. He holds more than twelve honorary doctorates, and national medals of honor, including the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun of Japan, the Grand Cross with Star of the National Order of Germany and the Knight of the Légion d'Honneur of France. He was also knighted by Queen Elizabeth II – Knight Commander of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George (KCMG). Prof Schwab serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Peres Center for Peace.