

Wystąpienie rektora, prof. Adama Budnikowskiego

Uroczystość nadania doktoratu *honoris causa* jest zawsze jednym z największych świąt każdej szkoły wyższej. Zgodnie z wielowiekową tradycją finał dzisiejszej uroczystości będzie się odbywał po łacinie. Języku, który przez setki lat był językiem wykładowym europejskich uniwersytetów. Polska jest krajem, w którym najdłużej z wszystkich krajów europejskich język ten znajdował się w powszechnym użyciu ok. 10% całego społeczeństwa, a wielu polskich poetów tworzyło równolegle po polsku i po łacinie. Dzisiaj polscy poeci nie piszą już wierszy w języku Wirgiliusza, a łacina używana jest, także coraz rzadziej, praktycznie tylko w kościele katolickim, naukach przyrodniczych i, w dniach takich jak dzisiejszy - na uczelniach.

W tych ostatnich łacina jest bardzo skutecznie zastępowana przez angielski. Dlatego też nie rezygnując z łaciny, wszak posługiwanie się nią jest w krajach kultury łacińskiej nadal legalne, pozwólcie państwu, że będą się w dalszym ciągu mojego wystąpienia używał jej współczesnego odpowiednika.

The procedure of awarding the honorary degree to Professor Anna Tibajuka was initiated in February this year, with the formal proposal submitted by the Collegium of Business Administration.

The Senate launched the procedure in March, and appointed professor Marek Bryx, the vice-rector for development and head of the department of investment and real estate, as the supervisor of the procedure.

Three assessors were also appointed and asked to submit their reviews of professor Tibajuka's achievements. The assessors are professor Kjell Havnevik of the Nordic Africa Institute in Uppsala, professor Andrzej Kowalski of the SGH - head of the department of rural areas development, and professor Marek Belka, former executive secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, currently at the IMF in Washington, D.C.

Having received three very positive assessments, the Senate finally voted on June 24th and awarded the 22nd honoris causa doctorate in the history of the Warsaw School of Economics to Professor Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A few days ago the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon began his speech at the FAO summit with the statement: “today only, 17,000 children will die of hunger.” This tragic number shows how much there is to be done for all of us to fight poverty.

The responsibility for eliminating poverty and hunger rests on the whole mankind. But first of all, on those whose action or abandonment could be easily translated into numbers like those the UN head referred to a couple of days ago. The groups in question are, among others: leaders of largest countries in the world and most important organisations, the largest pharmaceutical concerns and non-governmental organisations, churches and trade unions and eventually Noble Prize or Oscar awarding committees.

However, the responsibility for poverty and hunger other people suffer from, whether in rural or urban areas, should not be disclaimed by a single representative of the proud human species, even the poorest country or any organisations working in other areas and only indirectly dealing with poverty.

The Warsaw School of Economics belongs to the last group. While doing research and teaching the young generation, we can contribute to the alleviation of poverty. We can do it indirectly through the inclusion of the problem of poverty in our teaching offer as well as through the promotion of certain behavioural patterns. Despite the financial limitations, and for dozens of years also political and ideological, we have never resigned from both these tasks. From among many scholars and experts dealing with developing countries, it is worth mentioning Oskar Lange after whom this lecture hall is named. Within the teaching area, it is worth mentioning the courses of economic planning given in the 1960s and 70s to hundreds

of students from developing countries. They were, contrary to the title, first of all, courses of normal Economics.

If you want to have a look at the list of honorary degrees of our university, constituting its contribution to the promotion of certain behaviours, you can easily notice names of celebrities who made an enormous contribution to the well being of European countries. These are, for instance, the last two: Leszek Balcerowicz and Jose Manuel Durão Barroso.

Never before has the list included the name of a person whose scientific and public activities would be so explicitly connected with fight against poverty, especially in the context of urbanisation, as that of professor Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka. That is why, I treat this ceremony of awarding the honorary degree as both recognition of professor Tibaijuka and as an important step made by the Warsaw School of Economics on its way to fulfil its responsibilities towards the whole mankind.

Professor Tibaijuka,

I know that from Warsaw you will go directly to Sweden to receive the Goeteborg Award for Sustainable Development, considered the Nobel prize for the environment. We are proud that you will receive your next prize already as a member of the academic community of the Warsaw School of Economics!

Please accept my heartfelt congratulations!