LAUDATIO PROF. DR. THEODORE STATHOPOULOS BY PROF. DR. IR. BERT BLOCKEN.

It is a great honor for me to express this laudatio for our Honorary Doctor in front of this eminent audience.

This speech is centered around three quotes from famous scientists or engineers from the past.

The first quote is by Theodore von Karman, who made many advancements in fluid mechanics: “Scientists study the world as it is; engineers create the world that has never been.”

As a technical university, we educate the engineers that will shape the society of the future. Prof. Stathopoulos is not only an excellent scientist but also an exceptional engineer and pioneer in building physics and wind engineering.
- In the 1980s, he designed and constructed the atmospheric boundary layer wind tunnel at Concordia University in Montreal.
- With this facility, he laid the foundations for 13 Canadian and American standards on wind loading on buildings and structures.
- He invented the pneumatic averaging technique that is now used all around the world as important standard for testing buildings in wind tunnels.
- He pioneered the best practice guidelines for Computational Fluid Dynamics in wind engineering that are now also used all around the world.
- He developed the ASCE best practice guidelines for wind tunnel testing of buildings and structures.
- He has published over 480 papers in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings.
- He received numerous international awards, such as the Jack Cermak Medal, the Davenport Medal, the Senior Award of the International Association of Wind Engineering (IAWE) and the Honorary Doctorate from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece

The second quote is by Pythagoras of Samos, Greek mathematician: “Αρχή πολιτείας απάσης νέων τροφά” (“The base of every state is the education of the youth”).

Prof. Stathopoulos has always been a pioneer in education in building physics and wind engineering.
- At Concordia University in Montreal, he and the late prof. Paul Fazio were the pioneers that developed the first actual Building Physics education on the American continent.
- He has educated generations of building physicists.
- He received numerous excellence in teaching awards, from the Concordia University students, from the alumni, and from the University Board and University President.

The third and final quote is by Isaac Newton: “If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.”

Today in Eindhoven, the meaning of this quote is twofold:

1. First, Prof. Stathopoulos was the PhD student of the late and world-renowned Prof. Alan Davenport, also a pioneer and giant in the field, who collected 8 Honorary Doctorates. He is a very worthy successor.

2. Second, Prof. Stathopoulos himself is the giant that has trained many young researchers, who are now occupying leading positions in research institutes or professor positions in universities all over the world, and I am very proud to be one of them. I think that the quality and the extent of the mentorship by Prof. Stathopoulos could not be more clearly illustrated by the fact that many colleagues are here today and have come from all over the world to Eindhoven to honor their mentor and colleague.