

Welcoming Remarks:
“How to Win the Nobel Prize: Lessons from the Nobel Laureates”
Global Lecture Series by Dr. Svante Lindqvist
(16:00, Friday, October 16, 2020)

Hello everyone and welcome to the KAIST Global Lecture Series.

My special thanks to Professor Svante Lindqvist for joining us today from Sweden. I also would like to thank our students, young scientists, and faculty who are joining us online for this Global Lecture Series.

The Global Leadership Lecture Series at KAIST was designed to explore leadership through experiences shared by global leaders. The lecture series seeks to provide opportunity for the most distinguished global leaders from the public and private sectors to address pertinent leadership issues and share their insights and experience with the KAIST community.

It is especially meaningful to host Dr. Lindqvist at the first event of the Global Lecture Series in celebration of the 50th anniversary of KAIST.

Dr. Lindqvist is one of the most distinguished scholars in the field of the history of science, and he has become an outstanding leader in the field of science, society, and technology.

Dr. Lindqvist served as president of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and he is the founding director of the Nobel Museum in Stockholm.

Prior to assuming these positions, he was professor of the history of technology at the Royal Institute of Technology where he established and became chairman of its Department of History of Science and Technology in 1989. In 2010, he was awarded the Leonardo da Vinci Medal for lifetime achievement from the Society for the History of Technology.

I would like to remind you that he is also a KAIST alumnus. In 2011, KAIST presented Dr. Lindqvist with an honorary doctorate in science and technology.

On a more personal note, I worked with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences back in the mid-2000s when I served as the Director of International Affairs at the Korea Academy of Science and Technology.

I was organizing the bilateral symposium between two Academies when Dr. Lindqvist was president of the Swedish Academy of Sciences.

It is very unfortunate that we are obliged to host this valuable lecture online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I would like to invite Dr. Lindqvist to our campus in person in the very near future.

Dearest students and participants,

We will celebrate the 50th anniversary of KAIST next year. Many international scholars and global leaders laud KAIST for its significant contributions to the nation's successful growth.

Korea has become one of the world economic powers and KAIST has emerged as a world-class university. We have witnessed Korea's national growth aligning with the global reputation of KAIST over the years.

We have made many breakthroughs in science and technology while serving as the growth engine of the national economy and our graduates are working around the globe to better serve all of humanity.

Around this time every year, the Swedish Academy of Sciences announces the Nobel Prize winners. Despite such phenomenal success, we didn't hear any good news for Korean scholars again this year.

As a scholar and scientist, myself, I believe that winning the Nobel Prize should not be the only goal in a scholar's academic career. However, the Nobel Prize is without a doubt the most prestigious award in the world, and that's why many scholars still dream of winning this most prestigious award.

If any Korean scholar should win the Nobel Prize, I hope he or she will be a KAIST graduate or our scholar.

Recently, we have launched the Singularity Professorship to support one-of-a-kind young professors who will work adamantly to solve the big problems or to seek out the most intriguing academic disciplines with unrivaled creativity. We will support their research ideas with full-scale research funding without any strings attached.

Luckily enough, we received a 57-million-dollar donation from Chairwoman Soo-Young Lee of the KAIST Development Foundation for this Singularity Professor Track. Chairwoman Lee said that she wants to fund our professors to help them receive the Nobel Prize.

Well, I look forward to learning from Dr. Lindqvist's thought-provoking experiences and deep insights and I am sure he will inspire many of our young scientists as they begin their academic careers.

Thank you once again to Dr. Lindqvist and all of the participants.
I wish you all the success in your future career.

Thank you very much.

October 16, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shin', with a stylized, cursive script.

Sung-Chul Shin

President, KAIST