

Press release, Stockholm, August 28, 2014



Jakob von Uexkull honoured by Swedish Government

Today the Government of Sweden bestowed, *Illis Quorum Meruere Labores*, a gold medal awarded for outstanding contributions to Swedish culture, science or society, on Jakob von Uexkull, Founder of the Right Livelihood Award.

Jakob von Uexkull received the medal (12th size) today from the Swedish Minister for Environment, Lena Ek. The Swedish government cited his “significant contributions to promote global sustainable development and human rights.”

It is the first time that the Minister for Environment has presented this award as it is very rare that it is given for work related to the environment.

Jakob von Uexkull about receiving this medal:

“I am very grateful for this prestigious award! I chose to present the Right Livelihood Award in Stockholm because Sweden was the first country to honour people from around the globe whose work offered ‘the greatest benefit to mankind’, as Alfred Nobel said. It was also Stockholm that hosted the very first UN conference on environmental problems in 1972. Thus it feels right that the prize I founded for those who courageously take on responsibility and who find practical solutions has been presented here, in the Swedish Parliament, for many years.”

Jakob von Uexkull holds Swedish and German citizenship. He co-chairs the board of the Right Livelihood Award Foundation and its jury. He is the founder of the World Future Council. Jakob von Uexkull is married and has three children. He lives with his family in London.

Illis Quorum is Sweden’s oldest government medal, introduced by H.M. the King Gustav III and first awarded in 1785. Former recipients include Raoul Wallenberg, Greta Garbo and Astrid Lindgren (Right Livelihood Laureate 1994).

For more information about Jakob von Uexkull and how he set up the Right Livelihood Award, please visit

http://www.rightlivelihood.org/the_founder.html

<http://www.rightlivelihood.org/history.html>

Portraits of Jakob von Uexkull in print resolution can get downloaded from http://download.rightlivelihood.org/files/Right_Livelihood_Award_in_general/Pictures%20Founder_Board_Staff/

Further pictures and videos displaying him with Award recipients, in interviews or at the Award Ceremony are available via

<http://download.rightlivelihood.org/files/>

About the Right Livelihood Award

The Right Livelihood Award was established in 1980 to honour and support those "offering practical and exemplary answers to the most urgent challenges facing us today". It has become widely known as the 'Alternative

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Nobel Prize' and there are now 153 Laureates from 64 countries. The annual Award Ceremony takes place in the Swedish Parliament Building in December, with support by parliamentarians from all established political parties.

The Right Livelihood Award Foundation is based in Stockholm, Sweden. The prize is financed by individual donors.

This year's Right Livelihood Awards will be announced on September 25 at a press conference in Stockholm.

Interviews

Jakob von Uexkull is available for interviews in Stockholm today from 3-6 pm. Please call Kajsa Övergaard on +46-768-179997.

Contact

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