

Professor Klaus Schwab receives Reinhard Mohn Prize 2016 for Responsible Entrepreneurship

Published
16 Jun 2016

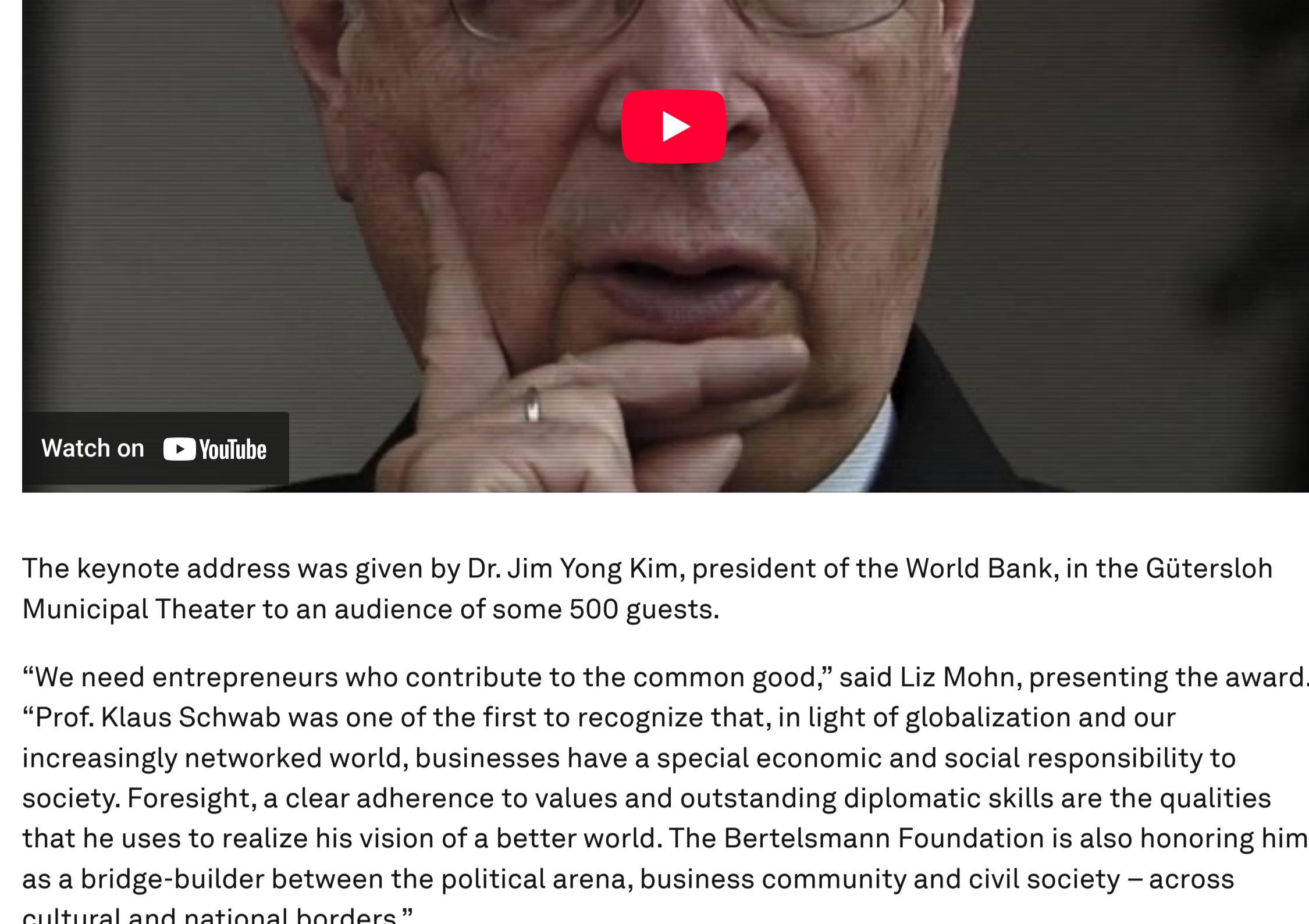
2016

Share



Gütersloh/Geneva, June 16, 2016 - The Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum, Professor Klaus Schwab, received the prestigious **Reinhard Mohn Prize** 2016 for Responsible Entrepreneurship on June 16, 2016 in Gütersloh, Germany. Schwab accepted the award from Liz Mohn, vice-chairwoman of the **Bertelsmann Foundation** Executive Board. In awarding the prize, the Bertelsmann Stiftung is recognizing Schwab as a thought leader in the area of responsible entrepreneurship.

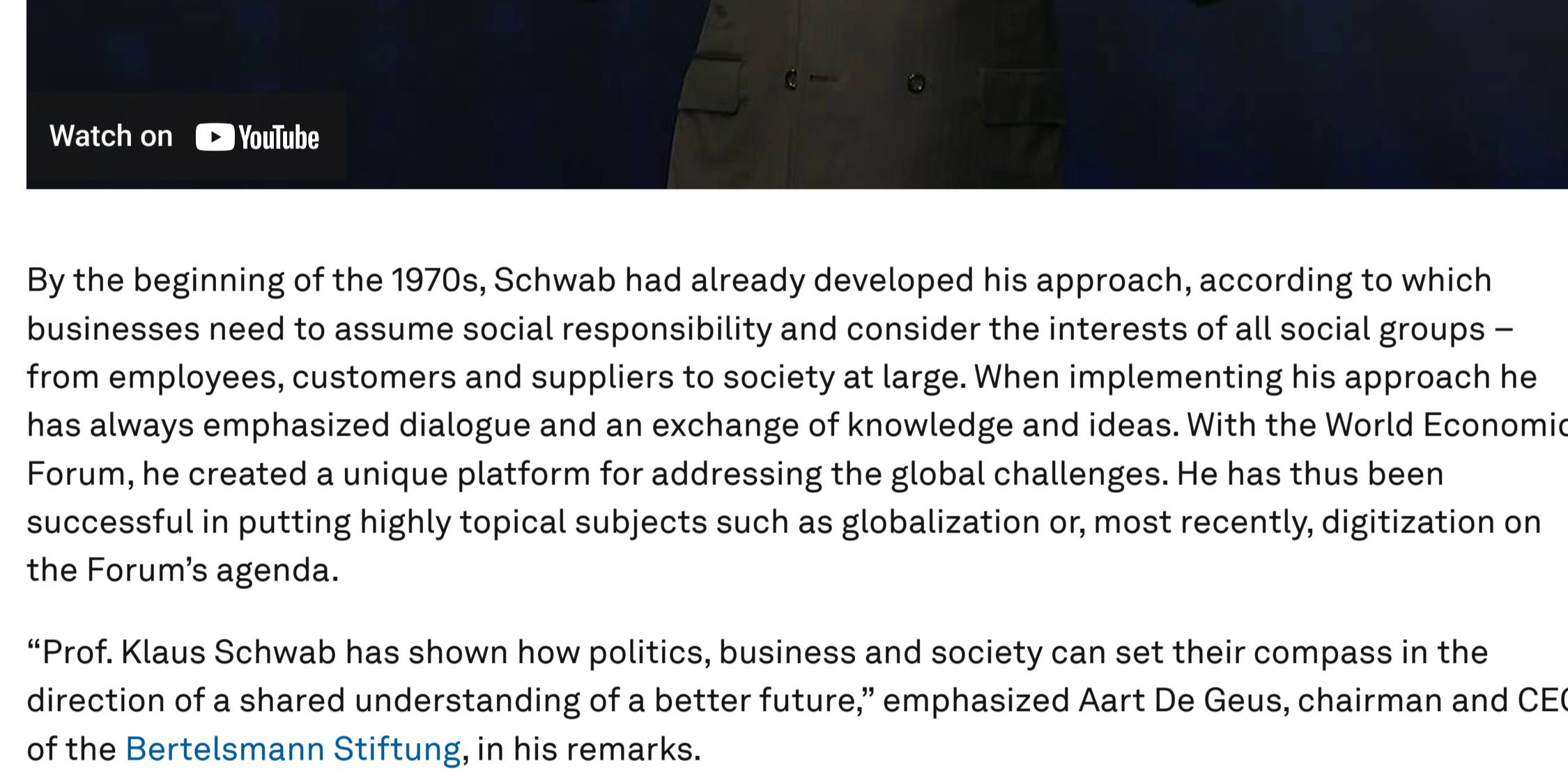
Award Video:



The keynote address was given by Dr. Jim Yong Kim, president of the World Bank, in the Gütersloh Municipal Theater to an audience of some 500 guests.

"We need entrepreneurs who contribute to the common good," said Liz Mohn, presenting the award. "Prof. Klaus Schwab was one of the first to recognize that, in light of globalization and our increasingly networked world, businesses have a special economic and social responsibility to society. Foresight, a clear adherence to values and outstanding diplomatic skills are the qualities that he uses to realize his vision of a better world. The Bertelsmann Foundation is also honoring him as a bridge-builder between the political arena, business community and civil society – across cultural and national borders."

Speech (German):



By the beginning of the 1970s, Schwab had already developed his approach, according to which businesses need to assume social responsibility and consider the interests of all social groups – from employees, customers and suppliers to society at large. When implementing his approach he has always emphasized dialogue and an exchange of knowledge and ideas. With the World Economic Forum, he created a unique platform for addressing the global challenges. He has thus been successful in putting highly topical subjects such as globalization or, most recently, digitization on the Forum's agenda.

"Prof. Klaus Schwab has shown how politics, business and society can set their compass in the direction of a shared understanding of a better future," emphasized Aart De Geus, chairman and CEO of the **Bertelsmann Stiftung**, in his remarks.

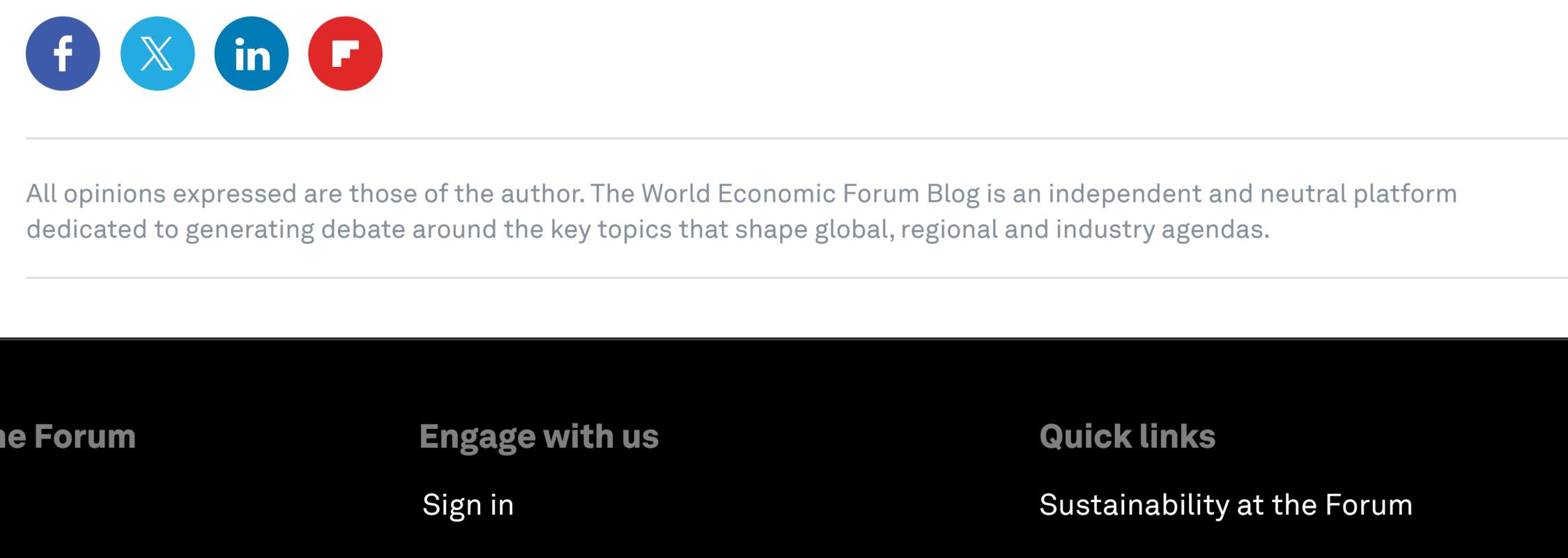
Many notable initiatives in which companies work together with policy makers and civil society to implement solutions to social problems have come into being as a result of Schwab's ideas and efforts. The World Economic Forum was, for example, the birthplace of the **UN Global Compact**, which was first announced there by Kofi Annan, then secretary-general of the United Nations and recipient of the 2013 Reinhard Mohn Prize.

Today, the **UN Global Compact** is considered the world's most extensive network for promoting responsible entrepreneurship. The World Economic Forum was also a key catalyst for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the smallholder initiative **Grow Africa**, and the **vaccine alliance Gavi**, which has vaccinated more than 200 million children around the globe since it was first established. These examples show the degree to which the forum has succeeded in transforming cooperation among politics, business and civil society into effective partnerships.

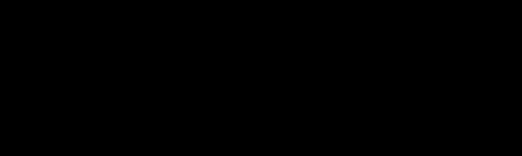
Schwab has also facilitated numerous historic meetings. At the World Economic Forum's annual conference in 1989, for example, then German Chancellor Helmut Kohl met with Hans Modrow, chairman of East Germany's Council of Ministers, to discuss Germany's reunification. The meeting between Nelson Mandela and then South African President Frederik Willem de Klerk in 1992 was a milestone in South Africa's political transformation process.

Under Schwab's leadership, the World Economic Forum is currently concentrating on examining the political, social and economic consequences of the **Fourth Industrial Revolution** (known in Germany as "Industrie 4.0"). Schwab will be using the prize money to fund further research in the area of technological change, with a focus on the increasing fusion of the physical, digital and biological worlds and the subsequent implications for individual identities and society at large. The results of this research will be made available to the public.

Watch the full award ceremony (German and English):



Share



All opinions expressed are those of the author. The World Economic Forum Blog is an independent and neutral platform dedicated to generating debate around the key topics that shape global, regional and industry agendas.