



## PRESS RELEASE

# VŠE awarded an honorary doctorate to Professor Henry Mintzberg

On Thursday, 10th November, 2016, the Canadian expert in the field of management studies, Henry Mintzberg, was conferred with the honorary degree of "Doctor Oeconomiae Honoris Causa" by the VŠE. The Rector of the University of Economics, Prague (VŠE), Prof. Hana Machková officiated at the conferral ceremony. Professor Henry Mintzberg has dedicated his entire professional career to management and business strategy. His focus has shifted gradually to the nature of managerial work and the role played by managers. He is professor of management at McGill University in Montreal, as well as being a visiting professor at many universities in Europe and other places.

**Prague 10 November 2016**

The Scientific Council of the VŠE decided to award the honorary degree of "Doctor Oeconomiae Honoris Causa" to Professor Mintzberg on foot of a proposal by the Scientific Council of the Faculty of Business Administration of the VŠE. The conferral ceremony was held in the Vencovského auditorium of the University of Economics. It was attended by almost 400 guests, rectors, vice-rectors and representatives of thirty Czech and Slovak, as well as French, Canadian and Liechtenstein universities. Ambassadors of several countries were also present, including Her Excellency Barbara Richardson, Canada's Ambassador to the Czech Republic.

Henry [Mintzberg](#) became famous as a leading thinker in the field of [management](#). He is credited with the major shift taking place in organizational theory, where he developed, inter alia, the concept of adhocracy and innovative organization (as opposed to bureaucracy). In the area of strategic planning, he stands in opposition to Professor Porter, in particular with his emphasis on the "emergent strategy" approach. This approach is based on the assumption that a quality strategy may arise "from informal discussions at various levels of the organization," rather than from a predetermined manner "from the top".

He is known for his contribution not only to the academic sphere, but also to the business world. His views have influenced and formed the largest professional authorities in contemporary management. Recently, he has been working as an academic at the world's best universities, as well as in the capacity of consultant expert in management development worldwide. His crucial contribution is the innovative view he takes of managerial positions and managerial roles. He explores the daily life of the manager and based on his findings, he takes an alternative approach to the training and development of managers.

*"Henry Mintzberg means a great inspiration for me, he is a person who seeks for less obvious truths and he bravely criticizes what we usually and uncritically perceive as normal."*



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*Every time I listen to him or read one of his publications I get new topic to think about or new point of view on a specific managerial or social problem,”* said Petr Knap, member of the Scientific Board of the Faculty of Business Administration of VŠE and managing partner at the Czech branch of consulting and advisory firm EY.

During the conferral ceremony Henry Mintzberg gave a speech on the topic ‘Rebalancing Society’. In his last book from 2015 with the very same title he laments the fact that the term socialism has become a dirty word especially in the United States, leaving the impression that there is something wrong with all things social; while capitalism has come to represent all things right.

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**The University of Economics, Prague** (Vysoká škola ekonomická v Praze) is the leading university in the field of management and economics in the Czech Republic. The University of Economics, Prague is composed of more than 17,000 students and has six faculties – five in Prague and one in Jindřichův Hradec in South Bohemia. These include: the Faculty of Finance and Accounting, the Faculty of International Relations, the Faculty of Business Administration, the Faculty of Statistics and Informatics and the Faculty of Economics and Public Administration. The faculty based in Jindřichův Hradec is specialized in management. Graduates of the University of Economics, Prague occupy responsible positions in the private, as well as in the public, sectors. Most of them are employed in the sectors of industry and services, trade, marketing, banking, public administration, accounting, audit, tourism and the field of information technology. Many significant Czech and foreign economists have obtained the University’s Honoris Causa degree; for example, the Nobel Prize winner Prof. Robert A. Mundell, Prof. Milton Friedman and Prof. Gary S. Becker. For more information, please see: <http://www.vse.cz/english>.

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