

# Lewiatan Awards given out

2011-05-19

May 18, 2011, PKPP Lewiatan Prize Giving Ceremony was held in the Warsaw Philharmonic. Four individuals were awarded this year: Jerzy Starek (Polpharma), Bogdan Zdrojewski, Aleksander Smolar, and Krystyna Janda. Over one thousand people participated in the ceremony.

The guests were welcomed by Henryka Bochniarz, president of PKPP Lewiatan, Henryk Orfinger, chairman of PKPP Lewiatan Board and Sławomir S. Sikora, vice-president of PKPP Lewiatan, CEO at Citi Handlowy bank. The hosts presented this year's decisions of the Lewiatan Award Committee and Management Board.

The Andrzej Wierzbicki award for an outstanding entrepreneur, an individual who gives style to the Polish entrepreneurship by way of continuing its best traditions was given to Jacek Starak, founder of Polpharma. The award committee decided that he was one of the symbols of the Polish economy success, a proof that vision and obstinacy make it possible to build business strength. Also his involvement in social issues, in particular within the field of culture, was appreciated. Laudation in honour of the prize-winner was delivered by Sławomir S. Sikora.

The Władysław Grabski award for a public life personality who has considerably contributed to development of entrepreneurship was given to Bogdan Zdrojewski. The award committee particularly appreciated his conduct as the Minister of Culture and National Heritage whose actions not only show his sensitivity to the needs of Polish culture, but also to the needs of business as well as his ability to foster cooperation between the two areas. The prize winner's achievements were discussed by former deputy prime minister Jerzy Hausner.

Special prize was received by Krystyna Janda for her vision of an independent theatre, also in financial terms, her courage and obstinacy in accomplishing her vision and her engagement in development of Polish culture and proving that an enterprise-friendly attitude is the key to success. Laudation was delivered by Kazimiera Szczuka.

Second special prize was received by Aleksander Smolar for his contribution to the development of Polish democracy and civil society, vast intellectual achievements and independency in expressing judgments and time and time again proving that it is worth being faithful to the truth and fighting for the truth. His achievements were discussed by Minister Michał Boni.

After the prize giving ceremony there was a debate "Why culture counts?" with participation of Henryka Bochniarz, Michał Boni, Jerzy Hausner, Krystyna Janda, Sławomir S. Sikora, Aleksander Smolar, Jerzy Starak, Kazimiera Szczuka and Bogdan Zdrojewski. The participants of the debate emphasized that culture plays an important role in creating social and economic potential of a country. It is culture that triggers imagination, invention and enables improvement of ability to communicate and cooperate. Therefore, we must care for culture as for public wealth.

The artistic part included performance of the Polish Orchestra Sinfonia Iuventus under the baton of Tadeusz Wojciechowski. The musicians played the Symphony No. 9 in E Minor "From the New World" Op. 95 by Antonin Dvorak.

Many eminent guests took part in this year's Award Giving Ceremony. Apart from the already mentioned: Bogdan Zdrojewski, Minister of Culture and National Heritage, Minister Michał Boni, former deputy prime minister Jerzy Hausner, Sławomir S. Sikora, President of Citi Handlowy Bank. Among others Juliusz Braun, President of TVP, Waldemar Dąbrowski, Managing Director of the Polish Grand Theatre, Jacek Socha, former Minister of Treasury, Beata Stelmach, deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Czesława Ostrowska, deputy Minister of Labour, were also present.

Also presidents and managers of Lewiatan member companies as well as its supporters and friends were present in the Warsaw Philharmonic. This year's ceremony was hosted by a famous TV presenter Monika Richardson.