

Lisbet Rausing honoured to receive prestigious CoScan International Award 2019

London, 27th November 2019 – Dr Lisbet Rausing, the Swedish science historian and philanthropist, was delighted and honoured to be presented this afternoon with CoScan's renowned International Award for 2019. Lisbet accepted this prestigious award at a special event at The Swedish Ambassador's Residence in London.



Lisbet Rausing receiving the CoScan International Award 2019 at the Swedish Ambassador's Residence, London. Pictured with CoScan President, Mark Elliott

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His Excellency, Mr Torbjörn Sohlström, the Swedish Ambassador, welcomed representatives of numerous Anglo-Scandinavian organisations by saying, "I am absolutely delighted to welcome you all here today, to celebrate the extraordinary work of a fellow Swede, Dr Lisbet Rausing. Through her philanthropic trusts, she has worked tirelessly to help to preserve culture and the environment, throughout the world".

Following the Ambassador's welcome, CoScan Committee member, Alexander Malmaeus conducted an informal interview with Dr Rausing along the lines of BBC Radio's *Desert Island Discs*. Music was performed by Ami-Louise Johnsson (an Anglo-Swedish Society music scholar), Alexandria Wreggelsworth and the London Nordic Choir.

Dr Rausing spoke movingly about the influences which led to her successful career as an academic and philanthropist.

Mark Elliott, CMG, President of CoScan, introduced the organisation: "CoScan, the Confederation of Scandinavian Societies, is an umbrella organisation whose members include all the main groups and societies which bring together Scandinavians living in this country, and others here with a close interest in the region. Our total membership is several thousand across the United Kingdom. Most CoScan members have at least one family member born in one of the five Nordic countries; and I am proud that my mother's parents - one British-born, one Swedish - were founder officers of the Anglo-Swedish Society in London in 1919. What we all have is great respect - even passion - for our part of Northern Europe, with a shared history and culture. The five Nordic embassies in London are our patrons, and we work together. Today's generous invitation from the Swedish Ambassador - not for the first time to CoScan - is one notable example. Our member societies do all the usual things - lectures, film evenings, cultural outings - and CoScan keeps them in touch with each other.

CoScan was founded in 1950. I am proud to have been President for nearly 20 years, and I am delighted that we shall celebrate our 70th birthday next year.

I would now like to hand you over to Tony Bray, a member of CoScan's Committee, who will tell you all about the CoScan International Award"

Tony Bray, a CoScan Committee Member, described the award, "The CoScan International Award celebrates an achievement of outstanding merit by an individual, body or group related to one or more of the five Nordic countries. The award recognises those who have added public lustre to any of the Nordic countries and who have caused the British, and others outside the region, to view those countries with even greater affection and respect.

Previous recipients have included:

- Mika Häkkinen, the Finnish racing driver,
- The Swedish tennis star, Stefan Edberg,
- The Swedish diplomat Hans Blix - former Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Interestingly, he received the award in 2003 - also at the Swedish Ambassador's Residence.
- In 2017, the Danish presenter Sandi Toksvig,
- And last year, the renowned Finn, Sakari Oramo, the Chief Conductor of both the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra.

Lisbet, over many years you have worked tirelessly on numerous fronts through your philanthropic foundations - The Arcadia Fund and The Lund Trust.

Sadly, we don't have several days to go through everything that you have accomplished, but I would just like to touch on a few of the key areas where you have made, and continue to make, dramatic changes. Or, as they say on *The Apprentice* - Lisbet, these are some of your highlights:

Culture

- Preserving over 500 near-extinct languages and many near-extinct skills and crafts through your work with digital archives

Farming

- Managing sustainable agriculture through farms in 9 countries across 4 continents.

Environment

- Numerous environmental and biodiversity initiatives, including projects to protect tropical forests and endangered wildlife, as well as protecting the environment through your Ecolean environmental packaging organisation.

Open Access

- Working to ensure that all university research is freely available to everyone

These are just a few examples of your many projects. I'm sorry that there simply isn't time today to cover them all. I would have loved to have talked more about all the organisations you support – organisations as diverse as The Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team and The Refugee Council.

Through your tremendous enthusiasm and hard work, you have made such a dramatic impact in so many different areas, and you have absolutely ensured that we British regard you, and Sweden, with even greater affection and respect.

Lisbet Rausing, we are absolutely delighted to present the CoScan International Award of 2019 to you.”

On receiving the award, Lisbet replied, “Thank you very much for this award. Thank you to all who made this such a wonderful afternoon - especially Tony, Alexander, Eva, and Torbjörn and Helena.

My grandfather, Ruben Rausing, coined our family motto: “doing well by doing good.” His work has blessed our family, and gave me the chance to try to help to heal the planet. I remember him with enormous gratitude and affection. And, I couldn't do my work without my family, so I want to thank you all, especially my husband, Peter.

One man is not here today. I wish he was. My late father, Hans Rausing, gave our family everything, not least, freedom. And so I would like to dedicate this award to his memory. Thank you again.”

-ENDS-

Notes for editors

Photographs

You can download hi-resolution photographs of Lisbet Rausing receiving the award here:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/hvunsws47lk1h81/AAAfW-GQX5bS6_VN8cRs5Yooa?dl=0

Click on the hotlink above, and then click the 'Download' button on the top right-hand side of the DropBox webpage. You can then save the photographs to your preferred location. Please attach the following credit to the photographs “© Chris Howell, CoScan”.

You can also download a hi-resolution photograph of Lisbet Rausing here, which needs no photo credit:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/t0aoy12iza14gpy/LR%20black%20and%20white.jpg?dl=0>

About Lisbet Rausing

Dr Anna Lisbet Kristina Rausing is a science historian and philanthropist. She is a co-founder of Arcadia, one of the UK's largest philanthropic foundations, and also of The Lund Trust.

You can read more about Lisbet on her Wikipedia entry here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lisbet_Rausing

About The Arcadia Fund

Founded by Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin, Arcadia supports charities and scholarly institutions to preserve cultural heritage, protect the environment, and promote open access. Since 2002, they have awarded more than \$663 million in grants to projects around the world.

You can read more about The Arcadia Fund here:

<https://www.arcadiafund.org.uk/>

About The Lund Trust

Founded by Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin, Lund Trust supports charities and causes they especially care about. Since 2002, Lund Trust has given \$64.5 million in grants to more than 350 organisations, in the UK and internationally.

You can read more about Lund trust here:

<https://lundtrust.org.uk/>

About CoScan

Established in 1950, CoScan (the Confederation of Scandinavian Societies) is a not-for-profit organisation that links and supports Scandinavian societies in the UK. With over 30 member societies and numerous individual members, it represents over 30,000 total members with links to Scandinavia.

CoScan's member societies and members maintain their Scandinavian links with lectures, film evenings, cultural outings, etc.

You can read more about CoScan here:

<http://www.coscan.org.uk/about/>

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Previous winners have included the tennis star Stefan Edberg and the comedian Sandi Toksvig.

You can read more about the CoScan International Award here:

<http://www.coscan.org.uk/international-award/>

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