

## International Association Les Henokiens - Château du Clos Lucé

### THE 2016 «LEONARDO DA VINCI PRIZE» AWARD

On June 9, 2016 the 6th « Leonardo da Vinci Prize » was awarded within the prestigious frame of the City Hall of Rotterdam to Mr. Pieter von Oord, CEO of the Dutch company Van Oord by, the Mayor of Rotterdam, Mr. Ahmed Aboutaleb, in the presence of the Henokiens President, Willem van Eeghen, François Saint Bris, President of le Château du Clos Lucé-Parc Leonardo da Vinci, the Professor Purcey Heugens from the Rotterdam Erasmus University and Mr. Hans de Boer, President of the Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers (VNO-NCW).



Founded in 1868 by Govert van Oord and presently managed by the 4th generation, the company Van Oord majority owned by the van Oord family, has for over a century built its reputation on its Dutch origins and its know how of water to have become a leading specialist in dredging, marine engineering and off shore projects (oil, gas and wind).



In his speech, the Henokiens President Willem van Eeghen reminded that for Leonardo da Vinci water was both a blessing and a threat. A paradox, indispensable in all forms of life, water could also be the instrument of destruction. He was struck by the amazing resemblance between Leonardo's works and the Van Oord vocation. In concluding his speech, he declared he was delighted to see such an appropriate family enterprise was being rewarded for its committance to its mission, the environment and society. A company rightfully to be awarded the 'Prix Leonard de Vinci'!

François Saint Bris also wished to evoke the common passion for water by Leonardo da Vinci Water and the Van Oord company. He saw a particular resonance between the research that Leonardo da Vinci carried out to unravel the secrets of the movements of water, air and wind and the concrete technical solutions for dredging and excavation systems that the Van Oord company implements all over the world, while remaining respectful to nature and the environment. François Saint Bris underscored that nearly 150 years and 5 generations later, true to its commitments and values, the still independent Van Oord family business sums up the philosophy, culture and very soul of a socially responsible business embracing a holistic vision of the future for the generations to come in helping to build a better world and for that deserves to receive the “Leonardo da Vinci” Prize.



Professor Pursey Heugens from Rotterdam Erasmus University (photo left) made a presentation on family companies values entitled « *Hénokiens of the future? Intergenerational value transfer in family firms* » while, Mr. Hans de Boer, President of the Netherlands Confederation of Industry and Employers stressed the fact that family businesses represent, in the image of the company Van Oord, a key source for Netherlands activity and economic health. A dynamic intends to preserve and promote among



political and administrative authorities of his country by means of the organization he chairs.



In presenting the « Leonardo da Vinci Prize », to Pieter van Oord, the Mayor of Rotterdam, Mr. Ahmed Aboutaleb wished to place the ceremony under the sign of the vitality of the family businesses. For Mr. Aboutaleb it is clear that this type of business will have a major role to play in a global economy whose volume will triple in the next thirty years: a challenge for small and medium size companies and therefore a source of motivation for the family businesses that demonstrate a winning spirit in the image of Van Oord receiving this award today.

The CEO of Van Oord, Mr. Pieter van Oord, said it is an honour to receive the « Leonardo da Vinci » award. He wished to thank on behalf of all the 90 family share holders, the Henokiens Association and le Château du Clos Lucé for giving him this prestigious award. For Van Oord all began in 1868 when his great grandfather Govert van Oord decided,for religious reasons, to become an independant entrepreneur. He would not have been able to dream that 148 years later a big family gathered in this beautiful townhall to receive this prestigious award. When in 1948 his son Koos [my grandfather Jac. G] decided at the age of 55 to continue this business [without his brothers]. The turnover in his first full year was was a mere 350,000 euro's. 148 Years later the company is still managed by Van



Oord family members and controlled by a growing family. We have here today 2 third generation family members: my uncle Andries and my father in the midst of us. Entrepreneurship has been in the genes of this family. As a company we have been adjusting to challenges and opportunities for 148 years. Recently we have become one of the largest contractors building offshore wind projects in the world and we have ownership in these projects. An entire new industry that did not exist 15 years ago. In the future new generations must continue to adapt the organisation to new market challenges. Only this will give us the chance to survive. I am confident that we as a company and as a family have the potential to become a true Henokien. We have another 52 years to prove this.



### **The trophy of the Leonardo da Vinci Prize**

The trophy, designed by Mellerio dits Meller, is inspired by the flying helix invented by Leonardo da Vinci. It embodies the laudable values of superiority, advancement and vision that the <<Prix Léonard de Vinci>> was created to recognize, promote and reward.