

Mr James T Dominguez CBE AM

The honorary degree of Doctor of Science in Economics was conferred upon James Dominguez by the Chancellor, Ms Belinda Hutchinson AM at a Faculty of Business graduation at 4.00pm on 25 May 2017.

Citation

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present James T Dominguez to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Science in Economics (honoris causa).

Mr Dominguez is a long-standing member of Sydney's financial and business community. He has also had a strong interest in secondary and tertiary education for most of his career and served on the advisory councils of several secondary schools.

His interest in tertiary education was confirmed with his studies at Sydney (BA) and Melbourne (BCom) universities and later broadened with his appointment in 1992 as a Fellow of Senate of the University of Sydney. Following his term on Senate, Mr Dominguez joined the Board of Governors of the University of Notre Dame Australia where he served with distinction for more than a decade.

Mr Dominguez was a pioneer in the Australian financial markets and has had a comprehensive career in finance and investment banking. With Robert Barry he founded Dominguez & Barry, a Melbourne Stock Exchange member firm which is known today as UBS AG, one of the juggernauts in the Australian financial system.

In his role as co-founder of Dominguez & Barry, Mr Dominguez made a significant contribution to the opening up of the Australian Stock Exchange system. At the time the firm commenced in 1976 he and his partner were members of the Melbourne Stock Exchange even though the head office for the firm was in Sydney. It was this anomaly that provided an impetus for his efforts to help effect a dramatic change in the stockbroking world. This resulted in the merging of the then five separately-run state-based stock exchanges dating back to 1859 and the establishment of the Australian Stock Exchange Limited, the first of its type in the world to become listed.

In 1983, Mr Dominguez became a non-executive director of Samuel Montagu in London. His business was always global in its thinking and its market reach. Well before Asia had assumed the importance it has today financially, he was convinced of the importance of the market and from 1971 for some 20 years he was a regular visitor to Japan. This led to Dominguez & Barry being the first to jointly underwrite a semi-government raising with a Japanese co-manager. Later he was to spend a decade on the board of a Singapore-listed company where he was upon his retirement the only non-Asian.

Following his career in the financial world, he was involved either as an advisor or director of a number of companies. In the public sector his input was often sought by state and Federal governments. He was a member of the Commonwealth Government Trade Policy Advisory Council and the National Investment Council and was Commissioner on the trail-blazing NSW Government Commission of Audit under Premier Greiner. Later appointments by government included Chairman of Wine Australia Corporation which is responsible for wine marketing globally and Commissioner of the Private Health Insurance Administration Council, the regulator for the Australian health insurance industry.

In the private sector he served on a wide range of boards including Asea Brown Boveri Aust, E*Trade Australia, Nestle Australia, Wesbeam Holdings and Tat Hong Holdings (in Singapore), Capral Aluminium, Cisco Systems Australia and Fuji Xerox (Japan).

His other community interests have included Chairman of St Vincent's Public Hospital Sydney, a Member of the Garvan Institute of Medical Research, the Powerhouse Museum and the Sisters of Charity Foundation. He is a Benefactor Patron of Opera Australia, an Honorary Life Trustee of CEDA, (Committee for Economic Development of Australia), and an Honorary Life Member of the St Vincent's Curran Foundation. He was also a keen vigneron having planted the popular trophy-winning vineyard of Yering Station in the Yarra Valley.

Mr Dominguez has also been a contributing member of the Catholic Church. In that role he was an influential activist in community issues which he saw as important. He was National President of the Order of Malta in Australia and is Ambassador for the Order to South East Asia and the Far East.

His award in 1993 of CBE by Queen Elizabeth was for services to British industry in Australia. He also became a Member in the Order of Australia – AM – for services to the financial and healthcare community and in 2009 Pope Benedict XVI made him a Papal Knight Commander in the Order of St Gregory the Great for his contribution to education and health.

Chancellor, I present Mr James Dominguez for admission to the degree of Doctor of Science in Economics (honoris causa) and invite you to confer the degree upon him.