

Professor Thomas Kochan

Honorary Doctor of Science in Economics
Conferring ceremony: 2pm, 2 May 2014

Citation

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

Thomas Anton Kochan is the George Maverick Bunker Professor of Management at the Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) at Cambridge in the United States. He has been the founder and co-director of both the MIT Workplace Centre and MIT Institute for Work and Employment Research. He served with distinction as Chair of the MIT Faculty.

Professor Kochan has been among the most eminent scholars in the field of industrial relations, not only in the United States but also at the international level. He is arguably the most influential academic of his generation in terms of both research and policy formulation.

Professor Kochan has published more than 30 books and monographs and over 100 scholarly papers in leading international academic journals. His co-authored book, *The Transformation of American Industrial Relations*, first published in 1986, is a classic in its field and was awarded the Best Scholarly Book in Management by the US Academy of Management. A number of his other publications have also received awards.

Thomas Kochan received his PhD in Industrial Relations from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1973, and was on faculty of the School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University from 1973 to 1980. He was appointed as a Professor of Industrial Relations at MIT in 1980 and named to a Chaired Professorship in MIT's Leaders in Manufacturing Program in 1998.

Professor Kochan served as a member of President Obama's Administration's Transition Team and chaired a review of the US Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. Previously he was a member of President Bill Clinton's Commission on the Future of Worker-Management Relations and was a consultant to the US Secretary of Labor's Office of Policy Evaluation and Research. He has served as President of both the Industrial Relations Research Association in the US and the International Labor and Employment Relations Association.

In addition to his scholarly achievements and service to governments in the US, Professor Kochan has served as a third party mediator and arbitrator of industrial disputes. He has been elected as a member of the National Academy of Arbitrators and the US National Academy of Human Resources. He has been an advisor to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) for many years.

Professor Kochan has played a prominent role in supporting industrial relations scholars and scholarship in many countries around the world. He has been a visiting scholar at the University of Sydney on numerous occasions and has assisted many younger scholars, including the establishment of regular exchanges between doctoral students from MIT and the University of Sydney.

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