

Achievements and Contributions of Dr. Jean Claude Badoux



Dr. Jean-Claude Badoux, born in 1935 in Forel-sur-Lucens, is a Swiss civil engineer and Honorary President at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL). He was the President of this Institute between 1992 and 2000. His field of expertise is the development of constructions in metal, wood and concrete.

A graduate of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich in 1958, he graduated from the Technical University of Hanover, Germany, before obtaining his PhD in 1965 from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania (PA), USA. Later he taught in University of California at Davis, and then at the École Polytechnique of the University of Lausanne in 1967, which in 1969 became EPFL. He was the Head of the Department of Civil Engineering in 1971 and was founding Director and Head of the Institute of Steel Structures (ICOM) between 1969 and 1992. He also chaired the Board of Directors of the Swiss Society of Engineers and Architects (SIA) between 1987 and 1991.

Prof. Badoux taught and researched in the USA both at Lehigh University and the University of California at Davis as well as at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne, Switzerland. In April 1992, he was appointed President of EPFL by the Federal Council, succeeding Bernard Vittoz. Controversial on his arrival for not being the candidate chosen by the faculty, he reoriented the priorities of the institution, particularly towards micro-technology, information and communication system (first of its kind in Europe then), and bio-technological fields in wide spectrum.

During his presidency, Prof. Badoux was one of the architects of the "Triangular Project" between EPFL, the University of Lausanne and the University of Geneva, which led in 2001 to EPFL taking over additional fields in basic sciences. He also supported the advent of Anglo-Saxon culture within EPFL, while internationalizing it by hiring, as professors more than 130 personalities, the majority of which were foreigners from over 20 countries. He strongly encouraged foreign students to graduate as doctors leading EPFL to become a truly international institution.

Prof. Badoux was committed to forge academia and industrial relationship. In emphasizing academia-industry linkage, Dr. Badoux chaired the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences (SATW) between 1993 and 1999. Since 1999, he has been the Chairman of the Board of the Bois Chamblard Foundation Buchillon Switzerland. He

was the founding President of the Swiss Network for Innovation. He also served as the Vice President of the Executive Board of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations. He has also been the Ambassador-at-Large of the International Center for Earth Simulation Foundation (ICES) in Geneva since 2014.

In September 2007, he was awarded the Anton Tedesko Medal 2007 by the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering (IABSE) in recognition of his dedication to excellence in structural engineering and his role as a mentor for younger engineers. He was also awarded Honorary Doctorate (honoris causa) by Hoseo University of Korea in 2001.

As an experienced academician, Prof. Badoux believes in creation of academic environment that nurtures love for students, and building an institution that puts primary focus on human resource development. As a gifted professor, he emphasizes on one's growth as a complete human being, equipped as much with qualification and expertise as with passion in arts, culture and spirituality.

An EPFL delegate to Nepali universities since 2003, Dr. Badoux is a great friend of Nepal and Kathmandu University. He has been instrumental in the inception of academic programs in biotechnology, geomatics engineering and civil engineering as well as Energy Research, Development and Consultancy emphasizing the linkage between academia and industry at Kathmandu University.

The University expresses heartfelt gratitude for his constant support and motivation, and wishes him good health, happiness and productive academic life in the days ahead.