



## UCD EGA Press Release

**Dr. Tom Hardiman**

**Presented with EGA President's Award in National Concert Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016.**



UCD EGA President, PJ Rudden, Dr. Tom Hardiman & Prof. David FitzPatrick, UCD Dean of Engineering

UCD Engineering Graduates Association has conferred the Presidents' Award on Dr. Tom Hardiman former Director General of RTE.

Tom Hardiman served his term of seven years as Director General of RTE from 1968 to and he then took up responsibilities in commercial, industrial and scientific life at home and abroad where his experience of complex organisation could be put to good use.

He contributed significantly to public sector policy-making in many diverse areas. He was founding Chairman of the National Board for Science and Technology (fore-runner of Forfas and Science Foundation Ireland) from 1978 to 1983 and from 1979 to 1982 he was the Irish representative to the European Community Advisory Committee for Research and Development in Brussels.

He has played an active role in the Irish business community. He was a Director of the Bank of Ireland through the 80s and he held directorships in industry, commerce, finance and in certain start-up companies. He was President of the Confederation of Irish Industry (now IBEC) in the early 80s and was President of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce in 1988, Dublin's Millennial Year.

President: PJ Rudden  
Hon. Secretary: Dr Vincent Hargaden  
Treasurer: Donal Wyse  
Dean: Prof. David FitzPatrick

Board: Michael Loughnane  
Seán Murphy  
Dr David Timoney  
Tina Pittock

Tony O'Brien  
Cormac Mannion  
Killian McKenna  
Sinéad Dolan

Katie O'Neill  
Dr Aisling Harkin  
Eoin Ó Catháin  
George Young

Fionnuala McGowan  
Louise McGuinness  
Brendan Butler  
Harriet Walsh



He was founding Chairman of the Irish Institute of European Affairs at Louvain in Belgium in the mid-80s. In the course of his executive responsibility in broadcasting he acquired an awareness of Japan through the European Broadcasting Union. He has maintained and developed this in the cross-cultural context and latterly in institutional and business matters.

He was elected a Member of the Royal Irish Academy in 1980. He received Honorary Doctorates from NUI in 1990 and from Lynn University, Florida in 1995. He was named Chancellor of Dublin City University in 1998 and served for three years. He was Trustee of the American College Dublin through the 90s.

He was awarded the Foundation Day Medal by UCD in 1999. He is a founding Fellow of the Irish Academy of Engineering, a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers of Ireland, a Fellow of the Irish Management Institute, and a Fellow of the New York Academy of Sciences. He was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun Gold Star by the Emperor of Japan in 1986 in the context of his contribution to the EU Japan dialogue and he received the Lafcadio Hearn medal in 1995 from the Ireland-Japan Association to mark his contribution to the Ireland-Japan relationship.

In his response, Tom Hardiman touched on “the role of the RTE Authority as custodian of a public trust. The troubles in Northern Ireland from the late 60s had brought particular difficulties in the early 70s including the dismissal of the RTE Authority by the Government”. He summarised the issues involved at the time. He concluded by welcoming the internationalisation of the Irish economy, the enlargement of the EU and the development of the EU Asia relationship, in particular the projected EU Japan Economic Partnership Agreement.