

**WARWICK**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

**Sir Tim Clark** Hon LLD

**Oration by Professor John Thanassoulis**  
**Warwick Business School**



## Sir Tim Clark Hon LLD

The whole Midlands region of the UK gains inordinately by having a vibrant connection to the rest of the world in the shape of Birmingham International Airport. It is an asset for business of course, allowing the flow of goods and services into and out of the UK; a door to the world for leisure and tourism; and for many of our students it is the most convenient way to join us here at the University of Warwick.

An airport is only useful to the extent that it is served by competitive, high quality airlines. In the year 2000, Emirates Airline began operating out of Birmingham Airport. Just over a year ago they expanded their routes between London and Dubai, now flying over 70 times each week. Emirates 2015-2016 financial reports rightly boast that 'Emirates carried 51.9 million passengers and 2.5 million tonnes of cargo across 151 destinations in 80 countries from Dubai'. This afternoon, I am delighted to present to you the President of Emirates, Sir Tim Clark.

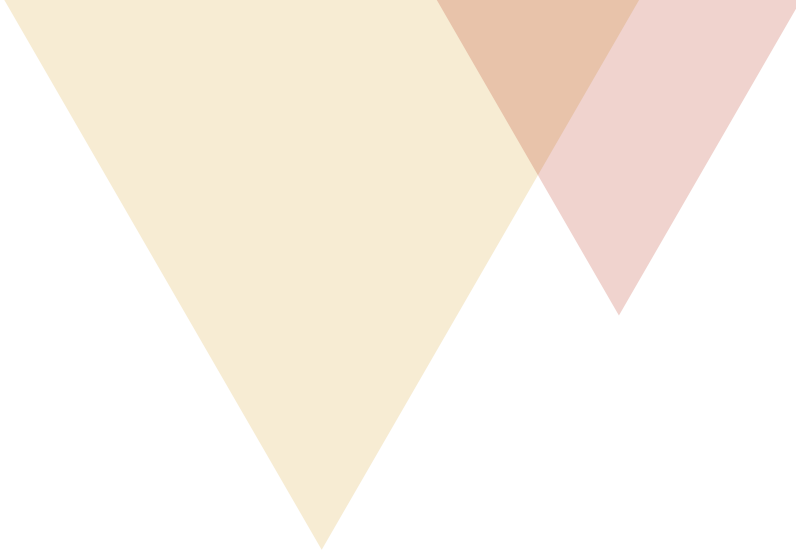
Sir Tim has been a member of Emirates' senior management team since the airline was launched in 1985, and he became President in 2003. From 1998 to 2008, Sir Tim was Managing Director of Sri Lankan Airlines in which Emirates had acquired a major stake. He has been in the civil aviation business for the whole of his professional career since graduating from the University of London with a degree in Economics in 1971. He joined British Caledonian in 1972, moving to Bahrain's Gulf Air, where he established his reputation as a talented route planner. He brought this experience to his role as Head of Planning in Emirates' founding team in 1985, where he was required to identify profitable new routes for the new company. Scrutinising passenger statistics and demographic data, he saw potential in routes passed over by other airlines.

For the first Emirates route, he targeted Pakistan - a nation of some 150 million people, with only one state carrier; he immediately saw the potential in Dubai's strategic location, and flights to India soon followed. And so he laid the foundation for one of the world's fastest growing airlines; it now operates the world's largest fleet of A380 jets - two of these iconic planes fly from Birmingham to Dubai every day - and also the world's largest Boeing 777 fleet. Emirates has become one of the most powerful forces in global aviation, delivering 29 years of consecutive profits, and being named the World's Best Airline in the Skytrax 2016 World Airline Awards.

The Emirates group also support philanthropic causes through the Emirates Foundation, which Sir Tim was instrumental in establishing and now chairs. It is a not-for-profit charity supported by passenger donations, and it focuses particularly on disadvantaged children. Very recently it opened a new 20,000 square foot facility for children with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome.

Sir Tim has won many accolades throughout his career. He is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society from which he holds a Gold Award for his contribution to civil aerospace; in 2009, he was made an Officer of the Legion d'Honneur; in 2014 the Queen appointed him a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire, for services to the aviation industry. For our WBS students graduating this afternoon, I can think of no better role model than Sir Tim Clark.

Chancellor, in the name of the Senate, I present to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, Sir Tim Clark.



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