

Address by the Prime Minister of Greece, Antonis Samaras for the award of
“IFG 2013” prizes of International Foundation of Greece
Press Office of the Prime Minister

Monday, September 16th 2013

Being honest with you, I admit that each time I’m visiting the Museum I feel really moved. Someday I hope we’ll have the pleasure to thoroughly present to our distinguished guests the exhibits of the Museum that photograph the strength of the past; justify the authentic satisfaction that everyone feels when one looks back in Ancient Greece; exhibits that still radiate today, in the modern world, the dream for a better Greece.

My friends, Ladies and Gentlemen, My Lord, I would like to thank the International Foundation for Greece that honors the representatives of an “other Greece”. The Greek Diaspora! The Greece that shines outside the Greek borders.

Besides, Greece always had geographic borders...

But the Greek Nation never had geographic borders!

So here we are today to award a prize to the skillful children of our country that achieve great things across the length and breadth, in every form of human activity: Arts, Literature, Sciences, Business Dexterity, Theater, Cinema, Mass Media and charitable activities.

Great Greeks of the world such as:

Vangelis Papathanasiou, who raises and calms down every human with his music that brings out memories, which are the supreme force of self-awareness.

Aristeidis Patrinos, who played an determinant role in human genome mapping, a project being a true milestone of modern Science. A child of the Greek Diaspora from Alexandria, to New York, to California and thereafter in the innermost depths of human existence, I might say.

Andreas Liveris, another child of the Greek Diaspora, from Darwin, Australia this time, distinguished as very few in business arena, Chairman and Chief Executive of Dow Chemical, the world champion in Chemical Industry.

Jim Giannopoulos, son of the 2nd engineer of the well famous can "Elli"! His father was saved by miracle when "Elli" was torpedoed in August 15th 1940. His son became one of the most important people of World Cinema Industry, Chairman and Chief Executive of 20th Century Fox.

Nikos Aliagas, born in Paris, whom everyone has seen him playing a leading role in French and European media. He visits Greece very often and day by day shows the modern ecumenical face of Greece.

And finally Stavros Niarchos Foundation, one of the greatest charitable organizations of the world, which especially in this difficult period for Greece it plays a leading part in large humanity and cultural charities, continuing the bright tradition of Greek Benefactors.

My friends, what all the awardees have in common, is that they all carry Greece in their hearts. Furthermore, they bring forth worldwide the picture of Greece that inspires respect to everyone but also self-belief to all Greeks. Their award today has a double worthiness.

First of all it proves that Greece does not forget the skillful children of Diaspora. Plus it enforces our bounds with the most dynamic piece of the Greek Nation.

Secondly, it presents the achievements of Greek people in the international area. It prefigures what one could accomplish in one's Country, if one was

offered the suitable conditions, in order to be productive, creative and competitive.

I would like to warmly thank of behalf of all of us, from all our hearts, the awardees that today, this evening, make us so proud.

I would singularly like to thank George and Aspasia Leventis, which by their own initiative bring Greece into contact with the best of its representatives. Thank you very much.

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