

2018

Peter Eigen, 2016 Inamori Prize Recipient

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Recommended Citation

Shore, Roston (2018) "Peter Eigen, 2016 Inamori Prize Recipient," *The International Journal of Ethical Leadership*: Vol. 5, Article 11.

Available at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.case.edu/ijel/vol5/iss1/11>

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No stranger to the worlds of economic development and governance, Peter Eigen has worked in these fields for several decades. Eigen has also focused on and led movements dedicated to improved governance on the global scale and promoting efforts against corruption. His strong leadership has been apparent since the age of thirteen, when he led a group of friends on wild adventures. At seventeen, he founded a jazz club that flourishes to this day. And at nineteen, he formed a horse riding club which allowed a farmer to start a new business and led Eigen to become the head of the National Riding Association at twenty-three.¹

Eigen is a lawyer by training, but has worked as a manager of programs for World Bank in Africa and Latin America. While working with World Bank, Eigen provided legal and technical assistance to the governments of Botswana and Namibia to strengthen their legal networks for mining investments.²

In 1993, Eigen founded the nongovernmental organization, Transparency International. Transparency International, as its name suggests, promotes transparency and accountability in international development. Eigen has also served as a member of Kofi Annan's Africa Progress Panel, and as a member of the board of multiple NGOs including Kabissa, focused on building the capacity of African nonprofits, and German Doctors. Additionally, he has served as a member of the Advisory Council of the Arnold-Bergstrasser-Institute in Freiburg.³

It was for these reasons that Eigen was awarded the Inamori Ethics Prize in September of 2016 from the Inamori International Center for Ethics and Excellence. At the time of the award ceremony, Transparency International held chapters in more than 110 nations. Transparency International continues to thrive as the global leading nongovernmental organization promoting transparency and accountability in development worldwide, while also exposing and fighting corruption in all forms.⁴

Since receiving his award in 2016, Peter Eigen has continued his battle against corruption and for transparency, both with Transparency International and with other nongovernmental organizations. Still very active in African governance and anti-corruption efforts there, Eigen addressed the first Regional Roundtable on Infrastructure Governance in Cape Town,

South Africa, during early November of 2017. At the time of this round-table, South Africa still had a fair amount of corruption present, but had still come a long way from where it had started, thanks to organizations like Transparency International. Eigen addressed the vital importance of transparency and openness for successful and sustainable infrastructure projects, and although South Africa as a nation has come quite a long way since anti-corruption efforts started, the fight is never over and there is always room for further improvement.⁵

Additionally, on April 23, 2018, Peter Eigen will be featured as the internationally-acclaimed keynote speaker for the Corporation for Economic Development of Curaçao, Korpodeko. Korpodeko is having its celebration of thirty-three years of a tripartite commitment to the contribution to a sustainable economy for Curaçao. On more than one instance in the past thirty-three years, Curaçao's economy has gone through some major changes. This celebration also brings to light the great need for transparency in the highest areas of influence in Curaçao's community. There is also a current government initiative to institute an "Integrity Chamber," which can act as a center for accountability and support for the community, yet another reason why Peter Eigen was selected as the perfect person to be the keynote speaker.⁶

Notes

1. "#LeadYoung—Peter Eigen: Fearless since 13, He's Changed the World's Mindset about Corruption." *Ashoka | Everyone a Changemaker*, Sept. 8, 2017, <https://www.ashoka.org/en/story/leadyoung-peter-eigen-fearless-13-he's-changed-world%E2%80%99s-mindset-about-corruption>.
2. "Short Bio," Transparency International, https://www.transparency.org/files/content/ourorganisation/ShortBio_PeterEigen_EN.pdf
3. "Short Bio," Transparency International.
4. "Inamori Center to Present Transparency International Founder Peter Eigen with Inamori Ethics Prize." *The Daily*, Sept. 6, 2016, thedaily.case.edu/inamori-center-to-present-transparency-international-founder-peter-eigen-with-inamori-ethics-prize/.
5. "Transparency Is Key to Corruption-Free Infrastructure." *CNBC Africa*, Dec. 12, 2017, www.cnbc.com/africa/apo/2017/12/11/transparency-is-key-to-corruption-free-infrastructure/.
6. "33 Years Contribution Korpodeko." *Curaçao Chronicle*, Apr. 6, 2018, curacaochronicle.com/economy/33-years-contribution-korpodeko/.