

Mr Paul Ladd Hon LLD

Oration by Professor Andrew Oswald

Professor of Economics and Behavioural Science

The world faces many threats.

Are there too many of us? If so, does this place an intolerable strain on our resources? Do we have the right governance structures set for the challenges ahead?

Undoubtedly, there are a number of groups and institutions that have grasped the scale of these concerns. I'm proud to say we are amongst them, with our Global Research Priorities programme representing a shining example of our efforts.

But within those groups, institutions and programmes we speak of, there is a host of diligent, intelligent people that are ensuring actions are being taken. There are those amongst you, our worthy graduates, who'll be at the forefront of meeting these international challenges. Hopefully, you'll take your place alongside the man with us on stage. Someone who was once sat there, like you, amongst the audience. I'm delighted to welcome *back* to Warwick, the Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development: Paul Ladd.

As a leader of an institute which aims to get the best out of multidisciplinary research, it perhaps makes perfect sense that Paul is an alumnus of an institution like ours. He graduated here in 1994, with a degree in Economics, and continued in this department by taking a Master's in Quantitative Development.

From then on, his interest in the social development across the world took him around the world. He was an economic adviser to the UK Department for International Development for countries including Botswana and Swaziland. He's been a financial adviser in the Central Bank of Guyana. He's seen his considerable skills called upon by the UN Secretary General's office in New York to help make sense of the financial and economic crisis in 2008.

This was merely *one* example of when the UN, that intergovernmental body of huge importance, has relied on the abilities of the respected individual we have with us here.

At the United Nations Development Programme, Paul was Director of the Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda – this group worked to determine what would succeed the eight Millennium Development Goals, which aimed to meet a range of international poverty and human rights targets. He has also led this development programme's policy team on 'inclusive globalization' – including trade, development finance and migration.

These are initiatives with enormous ambitions, and with the capacity to achieve equally enormous impact. Indeed, if you look at the results of those Millennium Development Goals, you'll see that this impact has already been achieved.

The presence of our former Economics student at the head of some of the UN's most progressive initiatives, exemplifies the insight, rigour and leadership that he brings to all of these roles. We would like to think, that during his time here on campus, we helped further develop those admirable attributes. And we hope that many of you here today are inspired to follow in his footsteps.

Mr Vice-Chancellor, in the name of the Senate, I present to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, Paul Ladd.