

University of Haifa

The Senate of the University of Haifa, by virtue of the authority vested in it by the constitution of the University and in accordance with the recommendations of the President and the Executive Committee

hereby confers upon

Sami Sagol

the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy, Honoris Causa

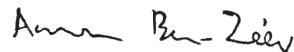
in recognition of his great contribution to Israel's economic strength over many years and for his leading role in furthering Israeli industry and turning it into a central player in the world economy; for his deep involvement in strengthening and advancing Israeli society, narrowing social and economic gaps and bettering the welfare of the peripheral areas of Israel, which are mainstay values upheld by the University of Haifa; for his understanding of the importance of education in securing Israel's outward and inward strength and his extensive activity in this area; for his contribution to the study of neuroscience, to the University's research students and to the University overall, which enables the University of Haifa to stand at the forefront of Israeli and international scientific research.

Conferred in Haifa, Israel
28 Iyar 5771/June 1, 2011



Ami Ayalon

Chairman of the Executive Committee



Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev

President



Prof. David Faraggi

Rector

SAMI SAGOL

Born in Turkey, Sami Sagol immigrated to Israel with his family as a young boy. In the early 1980s he was awarded management responsibility for Keter Plastics - a company founded in the early 1950s by his father, Joseph Sagol – and he continues to manage the company today. Under his leadership, Keter became one of the leading companies in the world producing and marketing plastic goods. The company has won Israeli and international awards for innovation and progress, including the Manufacturers Association of Israel's "Industry Prize", awarded for exceptional achievement, and the Lord Ziv Award from the British-Israel Chamber of Commerce for its contribution to trade between the two countries. To date, the Keter Group comprises 30 companies in Israel, the United States and Europe with total annual sales reaching above the billion-dollar mark.

In addition to his business activities, Mr. Sagol generously invests in the community, fostering mutual understanding and coexistence and strengthening Israel's periphery. Understanding the important role of employment in closing social and economic gaps, he transferred Keter Group's operations headquarters to the northern of Israel, and today there are seven factories in Karmiel, Yokneam and Alon Tavor, with over 1,000 employees. Keter Group places an emphasis on employing workers from all sectors of society – new immigrants and native Israelis, Jews, Druse, Muslims and Christians. In line with Sagol's world view, Keter Group's factories in Israel's peripheral localities contribute to social and educational development in these areas.

Along with his wife, Tova, Sagol makes significant contributions to education in Israel. He is a founder of Mifalot – The Social and Education Project of the Hapoel Tel Aviv Football Club, which is an organization that runs national programs combining sport activities with social-educational projects. Some 20,000 children take part in these programs at 400 locations around Israel. The organization has gained international recognition and last year alone was awarded three prestigious international prizes. Sagol supported the establishment of the Keter Plastics Rapid Prototype Center at Shenkar College of Engineering and Design and in 2006 founded the breakthrough "dvision" project for excellence in development, design and innovation. The project gives 30 outstanding designers and engineers from institutions of higher education in Israel and abroad an internship in a global business environment and a full scholarship to continue their studies. Tova and Sami Sagol donate thousands of scholarships every year to high school students, give generous scholarships for doctoral students in Israel's universities, and fund a variety of activities and projects at Israel's institutes of higher education and at the University of Haifa in particular. In recent years, Sami Sagol has focused on the advancement of brain research in Israel and established the Joseph Sagol Neuroscience Center at Sheba Medical Center (Tel Hashomer). He has funded Israeli doctoral research and studies in neuroscience and supported projects and firms that advance brain research in Israel.

Sagol received the Tel Aviv University's Ramniceanu Prize for Economics in 2008. Since 2008 he has served as Honorary President of the France-Israel Chamber of Commerce and last year he was awarded the French Legion of Honor medal in Paris for his contribution to France's economy and to strengthening ties between Israel and France.