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SPEECH AT THE FIRST CORRIPIO-ALONSO FOUNDATION AWARDS CEREMONY

Distinguished guests, members of the judging panels, ladies and gentlemen, dear award recipients, ANA and PEPÍN,

Welcome to this very special occasion, as we come together with deep emotion to celebrate the inaugural Corripio-Alonso Foundation Awards.

These awards have been established to recognise commitment, identity and a love for our homeland.

EACH OF OUR AWARD RECIPIENTS EMBODIES THE SPIRIT THAT THIS FOUNDATION SEEKS TO PROMOTE.

THEY SAY THAT THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THOSE WHO DARE TO IMAGINE IT DIFFERENTLY.

These awards honour outstanding careers and inspiring projects that have not only challenged conventional thinking but have also rewritten the rules of the game.

Congratulations to all our award recipients and thank you all for being here with us today.

CATEGORY: LITERATURE, THE ARTS AND THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL HERITAGE

At its meeting held here in Villaviciosa on 20 July, the judging panel decided to award this prize jointly to two candidates whose work reflects a strong commitment to the restoration and preservation of our cultural heritage.

Javier de Arroes and the La Benéfica de Piloña Cultural Association are both essential to preserving and promoting our popular culture. Through their work, both award recipients have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to defending our identity and a deep-rooted connection to the land. They remind us who we are, where we come from and why it is so important to continue protecting our culture.

JAVIER DE ARROES

It is an honour to recognise Javier de Arroes.

His name is synonymous with generosity and perseverance.

Thanks to his meticulous and TIRELESS work, the memory of our land has not been lost. Instead, it has become a living legacy for future generations.

This award is not simply recognition of his scholarly rigour and dedication to research. It is also an embrace of gratitude from the land he loves. Every archive he has rescued preserves an essential part of our identity.

Thank you for teaching us to value our heritage, for quietly safeguarding the things that define us, and for reminding us that a community that cherishes its roots will never lose its way.

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Javier: ASTURIAS WILL ALWAYS BE IN DEBTED TO YOU.

On behalf of the Corripio-Alonso Foundation, it is a genuine privilege to present this award in the LITERATURE, THE ARTS AND THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL HERITAGE category to MR JAVIER DÍAZ FERNÁNDEZ.

THE AWARD IS PRESENTED BY MANUEL CORRIPIO ALONSO.

LA BENÉFICA DE PILOÑA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

La Benéfica de Piloña Cultural Association is a breath of fresh air, bringing with it enthusiasm, hope and courage.

Its work to revitalise rural spaces is truly admirable. It shows that culture is one of the most powerful tools there is to prevent rural communities from being forgotten. At the same time, it has had a significant direct impact on social relationships, bringing people together around a shared project.

Through its cultural activities, La Benéfica helps heal the wounds left by neglect, builds networks that bring people together, embraces local residents and strengthens the bonds within the community. It reminds us that popular culture is one of the most beautiful ways to keep the spirit of our villages alive and firmly rooted in their heritage.

On behalf of the Corripio-Alonso Foundation, it is a genuine privilege to present this award in the LITERATURE, THE ARTS AND THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL HERITAGE category to the La Benéfica de Piloña Cultural Association.

THE AWARD IS TO BE COLLECTED BY MR RODRIGO CUEVAS GONZÁLEZ, and IT IS PRESENTED BY LUCÍA CORRIPIO ALONSO GONZÁLEZ.

CATEGORY: ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH

In this category, we recognise an outstanding career in entrepreneurship and scientific research, honouring a distinguished medical figure from our region.

Dr Luis Fernández-Vega has built an exceptional career with an international reputation. He has helped advance scientific knowledge and cutting-edge medicine around the world, while remaining firmly committed to one NON-NEGOTIABLE principle: staying deeply rooted in Asturias.

With this award, we recognise far more than an outstanding professional career. We honour a lifetime devoted to medicine, research and caring for others; years of hard work, dedication and commitment, in which every advance has served the same purpose: improving people's lives. Because behind scientific excellence lies a profoundly human understanding of what it means to practise a profession.

This award recognises Dr Luis, as well as the researchers and professionals who have shared his challenges, aspirations and achievements, always looking ahead while never forgetting that, at the heart of every advance, every research project and every decision, there is a person.

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On behalf of the Corripio-Alonso Foundation, it is a genuine privilege to present this award in the ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH category to DR LUIS FERNÁNDEZ-VEGA SANZ.

THE AWARD IS PRESENTED BY ANA CORRIPIO ALONSO DE BARCE.

CATEGORY: SOCIAL SCIENCES, COMMUNICATION AND HUMANITIES

In this category, we recognise a sustained commitment to researching and promoting Enlightenment humanist thought, together with tireless efforts to champion civic values.

Through its daily work, the Jovellanos Forum Foundation of the Principality of Asturias keeps the flame of human knowledge and rigorous debate alive.

The Foundation reminds us that one of the most precious assets of any community is its intellectual wealth: its ability to nurture critical thinking and defend the humanist legacy that binds us together. This legacy is an invisible thread that helps build a society that is more cultured, freer and richer in every sense.

The Foundation shows us that the ideas of the Enlightenment remain a driving force behind our progress. It reminds us that a society that honours its intellectual roots is better equipped to build a brighter future.

On behalf of the Corripio-Alonso Foundation, it is a genuine privilege to present this award in the SOCIAL SCIENCES, COMMUNICATION AND HUMANITIES category to the Jovellanos Forum Foundation of the Principality of Asturias.

THE AWARD IS TO BE COLLECTED BY ITS PRESIDENT, MR IGNACIO GARCÍA ARANGO, AND IT IS PRESENTED BY MANUEL CORRIPIO ALONSO.

CATEGORY: SOCIAL WELFARE AND SPORT

In this category, we recognise a long-standing commitment to improving people's quality of life.

The RAITANA ASSOCIATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES is a beacon of hope. Through the wide range of services it provides, the association not only seeks to enable people with disabilities to achieve the greatest possible degree of independence, but also to uphold their right to enjoy a fulfilling life in every respect. Its work is guided by a firm commitment to social inclusion and to helping people remain in employment.

Dear friends from Raitana, this award is, above all, A HEARTFELT EMBRACE OF GRATITUDE and a tribute to your invaluable work. You show us that the true measure of a community's humanity lies in its determination to leave no one behind and in the care and protection it offers to its most vulnerable members.

Your daily work, often carried out quietly but always making a difference, helps build an inclusive and supportive society. Day after day, you demonstrate that barriers can be overcome through love and perseverance, reminding us that a community that cares for and respects the dignity of all its citizens is a fairer and more humane community.

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On behalf of the Corripio-Alonso Foundation, it is a genuine privilege to present this award in the SOCIAL WELFARE AND SPORT category to the RAITANA ASSOCIATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

THE AWARD IS TO BE COLLECTED BY ITS PRESIDENT, MS EMI DE AGUSTÍN, AND IT IS PRESENTED BY LUCÍA CORRIPIO ALONSO DE GONZÁLEZ.

CLOSING REMARKS

We would like to conclude this ceremony by drawing inspiration from the example set by Pepín and Ana María, who have taught us that there is one virtue that never loses its value, no matter how often it is practised: GRATITUDE.

Thank you, thank you all, from the bottom of our hearts.

The Corripio-Alonso Foundation is delighted to open a new chapter.

The second edition of the Corripio-Alonso Foundation Awards, to be held in 2027, is hereby officially announced.

We wish you all a very pleasant evening.

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