The Crown Prince of Spain handed the II Jaime Fernández de Araoz Award

Esperanza Aguirre and David Vergara were among the guests at the event.

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The Spanish financial representatives attended recently the second edition of the Jaime Fernández de Araoz Corporate Finance Award –the only one of its kind. The Crown Prince of Spain handed the award to Maria Guadalupe and Vicente Cuñat (Professors of Finance at Columbia Business School and Pompeu Fabra University, respectively) for their research paper “Globalization and incentives provision in firms: the effects of international competition”.

During the ceremony, the Prince of Asturias was accompanied by David Vergara, the Economy Secretary of State, and Esperanza Aguirre, the interim President of the Community of Madrid. This was the first official event of Ms. Aguirre after last Sunday regional elections and so she took advantage of the opportunity to address the Prince and reiterate him “the Community of Madrid loyalty to the Crown”. The president of the jury, Juan Rodríguez Inciarte, managing director of Santander, and Alberto Ibáñez González, president of Citigroup España and vicepresident of the jury, took also part in the ceremony as well as the rest of the numerous members of the jury.

The award was established in 2005 to the memory of Jaime Fernández de Araoz, managing director of Citigroup until his death in 2003. Carlos y Alejandro, his brothers, conducted the ceremony where it was remembered the labour of the person being honoured and the role of this kind of papers in favour of the economic development of the Spanish businesses.

The Prince stressed during his speech that “human capital is the main asset of Spain” and emphasized the importance of “training and determination as vital to growth”.

Vergara talked about the “vital interest of the incentives management –the core of the awarded paper in a globalized world “ and wished that markets opening lead to a “competition increase”.

During his speech, the awarded professors commented on the prevailing trends in a globalized market: the bigger size of firms, more interrelated companies and the increasing internal interaction.

The paper concluded that in a globalized world “firms have become more meritocrat”. The event took place at the Mutua Madrileña Auditorium.