

International Meteorological Organization Prize Presented to Professor M.I. Budyko

The 1987 International Meteorological Organization (IMO) Prize was presented to Professor Mihael Ivanovich Budyko, of the Soviet Union, on 9 June 1988, during the fortieth session of the WMO Executive Council. This distinguished and coveted Prize was established in 1955 by the World Meteorological Organization in honour of the former non-governmental organization which initiated international collaboration in meteorology in 1873, and which was replaced in 1951 by the World Meteorological Organization when the latter was created as a UN specialized agency. The Prize is given annually as WMO's top award and the list of recipients includes many of the world's most distinguished meteorologists.

Many international scientific programmes have benefited from Professor Budyko's investigations, including: the International Geophysical Year (1957-58), the International Geophysical Cooperation (1959), the International Hydrological Decade and International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO), and the WMO-ICSU Global Atmospheric Research Programme. His conclusions about the inevitability of anthropogenic warming processes were taken into account in the establishment of the World Climate Programme (WCP) of the World Meteorological Organization. His present studies on natural and anthropogenic climate change, in which scientifically supported scenarios of future changes in climate and water resources have been developed, are a major contribution in the implementation of the WCP.

Professor Budyko, a Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, was born in 1920 in Gomel (USSR). Upon his graduation from the Leningrad Polytechnical Institute in 1942 he joined the Voeikov Main Geophysical Observatory, where he stayed until 1975, serving as Director during the period 1954 to 1972. He was also responsible for the establishment, in 1964, of the

WMO World Radiation Data Centre in Leningrad. In 1975 he became Head of the Climatic Change and Atmospheric Water Cycle Research Department at the State Hydrological Institute (under the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Control of Natural Environment), which position he still occupies.

Professor Budyko is an eminent climatologist who has made valuable contributions to many branches of meteorology. His studies on solar energy transformations at the Earth's surface have become classical, and the results have served in constructing charts for the Atlas of the Heat Balance of the Earth, in building energy-balance climate models, and in developing the water-cycle theory. The science of physical climatology as we know it today has been greatly influenced by his work, so that it is not surprising that he is an Honorary Member of the USSR Geographical Society and of the American Meteorological Society.

Professor Budyko is the Author of several hundred scientific papers, including monographs which have been translated into many languages and are well-known to the scientific community. He has received a number of awards for his publications, including the Gold Medal of the USSR Geographical Society, the Voeikov Prize of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Control of Natural Environment (three times), and the Vinogradov Prize of the USSR Academy of Sciences. A former member of the WMO Technical Commission for Climatology, Professor Budyko has participated in the activities of other WMO commissions and working groups, and has also organized a number of important conferences and symposia on behalf of WMO.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
World Meteorological Organization
Avenue Giuseppe-Motta 41
1211 Geneva
Switzerland.

Propitious Gold Medal for International Corporate Environmental Achievement

On 20 May 1988, in a formal ceremony in Washington, DC, the British Petroleum Company p.l.c. was awarded the 1988 Gold Medal for International Corporate Environmental Achievement of the World Environment Center. Dr Klaus Toepfer, Minister of Environment, Nature Conservation, and Reactor Safety, of the Federal Republic of Germany, presented the Gold Medal before an international audience of more than 500 persons. Mr Edgar S. Woolard, President of E.I. duPont de Nemours and Co., was the Award Dinner chairman. The guest of honour was HRH Princess Chulabhorn of Thailand, herself a scientist and a leader in the environmental movement in her country.

In accepting the Gold Medal, Mr Basil R.R. Butler, OBE, Managing Director of BP, stated that the occasion 'is a tribute to the high priority that industry is seen to be giving to dealing with environmental issues. It is also a recognition that constructive relationships can, and do, exist between companies, governments, and community leaders.' Mr Butler also paid tribute to the previous recipients of the Gold Medal: 3M, Exxon, and duPont. He pointed out that society is entitled to demand that industry act responsibly in achieving the 'right balance' between conservation and development. In accepting the Gold Medal, he said that BP reconfirms its dedication to the pursuit of environmental excellence as a necessary pre-condition for business success.

'Sound environmental management is, [before and] after all, a key to sustainable growth. Our strategy is to grow profitably; but to do this we must protect the environment for ourselves and for the generations to come.'

BP was selected from among the nominees by an independent international awards jury headed by Dr Josef I.

Abrams, of the University of Pittsburgh, for 'comprehensive and total commitment to its structured and systematic Environmental Protection Management (EPM) program.' EPM is a mechanism for stringent assessment, monitoring, review, and auditing, procedures applied to BP projects world-wide.

In its award citation, the jury noted: 'BP's beyond-the-bottom-line concern for the environment, and its consistent application of this principle, unconstrained by the absence of suitable regulations, stands as a model for world industry in its continuing quest to protect the global environment and its inhabitants.'

In announcing the award, World Environment Center President Whitman Bassow said, 'In this age of ever-increasing need for sound environmental management, industry plays a critical role. The leadership shown by BP demonstrates that constructive action to protect the environment is compatible with economic development.'

The World Environment Center, based in New York City, was established in 1974 to increase public understanding of environment and development issues. Founded with initial support from the United Nations Environment Programme, the Center is a wholly independent, not-for-profit, non-advocacy organization, providing information and a broad range of technical assistance and training for the enhancement of environmental management practices world-wide.

JOHN SHAW, *Media Adviser*
Office of the Executive Director
United Nations Environment Programme
P.O. Box 30552
Nairobi, Kenya.