

Herbert Fischer Receives Prize for Atmosphere Research

GeoUnion Honors Merits of KIT Climate Scientist by Granting the 2013 Johannes Georgi Prize



Professor Herbert Fischer, former Head of the KIT Institute of Meteorology and Climate Research (IMK). (Photo by: KIT)



KIT Climate and Environment Center:
For an environment worth living in

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Professor Herbert Fischer is granted the 2013 Johannes Georgi Prize for his pioneer work in atmosphere research. The prize is the highest German geosciences award. It is granted every three years by the GeoUnion Alfred Wegener Foundation, the organization of all geoscientific associations in Germany. Herbert Fischer, former Head of the KIT Institute of Meteorology and Climate Research (IMK), is considered one of the pioneers of remote sensing of atmospheric trace gases. They affect the earth's radiation budget and, hence, the climate and ozone layer.

The prize in the amount of EUR 7000 was handed over to Professor Herbert Fischer at the "DACH 2013" meteorological conference in early September in Innsbruck. "His enormous perseverance and high commitment for more than four decades have contributed decisively to the high level and worldwide visibility of our discipline," said Professor Johannes Orphal, Head of the Institute of Meteorology and Climate Research – Atmospheric Trace Gases and Remote

Sensing (IMK-ASF) of KIT and scientific spokesperson of the KIT Climate and Environment Center, in his laudation.

Scientific work of Herbert Fischer focuses on dynamic and chemical processes as well as on the dispersion of electromagnetic radiation in the atmosphere. In particular, Fischer concentrates on remote sensing of trace substances, trace gases and aerosols, in the atmosphere. They contribute to the greenhouse effect on earth and influence the ozone layer. Herbert Fischer is deemed one of the pioneers of Fourier transform infrared spectrometry for atmospheric remote sensing worldwide. With the help of this technology, global concentration of trace gases in the atmosphere can be determined continuously. Among others, Fischer developed the MIPAS (Michelson Interferometer for Passive Atmospheric Sounding) instrument for use on the ground, on balloons, aircraft, and satellites.

"I am very happy about the scientific community honoring my work," said Professor Fischer when he received the Georgi Prize. He will use the prize money for establishing a foundation within the German Meteorological Society (DMG) to support young scientists in the area of remote sensing.

Herbert Fischer, born in 1942 in Zweibrücken, studied physics at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU), Munich, where he was conferred his PhD and his post-doctoral lecture qualification in the field of meteorology. In 1986, he was appointed Head of the joint Institute of Meteorology and Climate Research (IMK) of the then Kernforschungszentrum Karlsruhe and Universität Karlsruhe. At IMK, he established the divisions of "Trace Gases in the Stratosphere" and "Remote Sensing of Atmospheric Parameters." He assumed a number of national and international positions and honorary posts. Presently, he is Deputy Chairman of the German Meteorological Society, chairs the Reinhard Süring Foundation, and is Deputy Chairman of the Section of Geophysics/Meteorology of the National Academy Leopoldina.

The KIT Climate and Environment Center develops strategies and technologies to secure the natural bases of life. For this purpose, 660 employees of 32 institutes produce fundamental and application-oriented knowledge relating to climate and environmental change. It is not only aimed at eliminating the causes of environmental problems, but increasingly at adapting to changed conditions.

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) is a public corporation according to the legislation of the state of Baden-Württemberg.

It fulfills the mission of a university and the mission of a national research center of the Helmholtz Association. Research activities focus on energy, the natural and built environment as well as on society and technology and cover the whole range extending from fundamental aspects to application. With about 9000 employees, including nearly 6000 staff members in the science and education sector, and 24000 students, KIT is one of the biggest research and education institutions in Europe. Work of KIT is based on the knowledge triangle of research, teaching, and innovation.

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