Prof ‘Jan’ Pentreath Named  
ICRP Main Commission Emeritus Member

Effective May 24, 2014, the status of ICRP Main Commission Member Emeritus was conferred upon Professor R. ‘Jan’ Pentreath. This honorary distinction, conferred for life, is an expression of appreciation of extraordinary contributions to ICRP.

With the addition of Professor Pentreath, a total of ten distinguished figures are now Emeritus Members of the International Commission on Radiological Protection, seven of the Main Commission and three of its Committees.

Prof Richard John (Jan) Pentreath, BSc, PhD, DSc, FSB, FSRP, C Biol, C Rad P  
ICRP Main Commission Emeritus Member

Richard John (Jan) Pentreath is a Professor Emeritus of The University of Reading. He gained his BSc at Queen Mary College, University of London (1965), his PhD as a Commonwealth scholar at the University of Auckland, New Zealand (1968), and his DSc, for his research on radioactivity in the marine environment, from the University of London (1980). A Chartered Biologist and a Chartered Radiological Protection Professional, he has been elected Fellow of the Institute of Biology and a Fellow of the Society of Radiological Protection. He has received Honorary DSc degrees from the University of Hertfordshire, the University of the West of England, and the University of Plymouth.

Jan has held many posts including: Head of MAFF’s Aquatic Environment Protection Division; Deputy Director of Fisheries Research; Chairman of the UK’s Marine Pollution Monitoring Management Group; National Rivers Authority's Chief Scientist, Director of Water Quality, and Head of Pollution Control; and, Environment Agency's Chief Scientist and Director of Environmental Strategy.

Jan also served on a large number of IAEA and NEA committees throughout his career, and been involved in a large range of issues relating to radioactivity in the environment and its consequences for the general public. He has also been involved with a large range of environmental protection issues in a broader sense, for example as one of the three independent scientists appointed at any one time by the Secretary of State to the UK’s Joint Nature Conservation Committee. As an Honorary Professor at the University of East Anglia, he was Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Center for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment.

Jan was selected as the Chair of the newly established Committee 5 of ICRP in 2005 and worked tirelessly to promote the success of this committee until his retirement from ICRP in 2013. Through his leadership, Committee 5 has become a respected extension of ICRP and has produced several publications that have set the structure for the expanded role of ICRP in protection of the environment.

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