

Prof. R J Pentreath, BSc, PhD, DSc, FSB, FSRP, C Biol., C Rad.P.



Richard John (Jan) Pentreath is a Professor Emeritus of The University of Reading. Born in Porthenys, he attended school there and then the Penzance (Sir Humphry Davy) Grammar School. Jan gained his BSc (1st Class Hns Zoology (Special Hns Marine) 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 also received Honorary DSc degrees from the University of Hertfordshire, the University of the West of England, and the University of Plymouth.

Before joining the research team at the University of Reading (Environmental Systems Science Centre, School of Mathematics, Physics and Meteorology), Jan had been the Environment Agency's Chief Scientist and Director of Environmental Strategy, a post he had occupied for the first five years following the creation of the Agency in 1995. Prior to that he had been the National Rivers Authority's Chief Scientist, Director of Water Quality, and Head of Pollution Control, again from its creation in 1989 until it became one of the formative bodies of the Environment Agency. He had come to the National Rivers Authority from having been Head of MAFF's Aquatic Environment Protection Division, and Deputy Director of Fisheries Research, when he was also Chairman of the UK's interdepartmental Marine Pollution Monitoring Management Group. Prior to that he had been Head of Research at the MAFF Fisheries Radiobiological Laboratory, having been a research scientist there since 1969, studying radioactivity in the marine environment.

Jan has 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. And he has also been involved with a large range of environmental protection issues in a broader sense. He has been one of the three independent scientists appointed at any one time by the Secretary of State to the UK's Joint Nature Conservation Committee. And, 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. He has also been a Visiting Professor to the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, University of London, and a Council Member of several bodies including the Natural Environment Research Council, the UK Marine Biological Association, and the Association for Schools Science Engineering and Technology. He also served for many years as one of the independent members of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority's Board Assurance Committee on Safety, Health and the Environment, and is currently a non-executive director of Research Sites Restoration Ltd, responsible for the Harwell and Winfrith sites. Back in his native Cornwall, he is President of the Cornwall Wildlife Trust and President of the Cornwall Sustainable Building Trust.

In addition to being a member and trustee of the International Commission on Radiological Protection, and Chairman of its Standing Committee on the Effects of Radiation on the Environment, he is also a trustee of the Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science, and an Honorary Research Fellow at the Plymouth Marine Laboratory.

Citations are those in Marquis *Who's Who in the World*, Marquis *Who's Who in the World of Science and Engineering*, Black's *Who's Who*, Debrett's *People of Today*, and the International Biographic Centre's Cambridge *Blue Book*.