

## The Vernadsky Medal

IAGC Vernadsky Medal was presented to Bjørn Bølviken (Norwegian Geological Survey, Norway - retired), shown here accepting the Medal from IAGC's Vice President Clemens Reimann.



Dr. Clemens Reimann

Professor Bjørn Bølviken

## Bjørn Bølviken - 2008 IAGC Vernadsky Medalist

Prof. Bjørn Bølviken, 80, formerly with the Geological Survey of Norway, was the 2nd recipient of the IAGC's Vernadsky Medal. The IAGC Vernadsky Medal is awarded biennially to a single person for a distinguished record of scientific accomplishment in geochemistry over the course of a career.

Dr. David Smith of the US Geological Survey and Leader of the IAGC Task Group on 'Global Geochemical Baselines' was the citationist for the award.



Bjørn Bølviken had a more than 50-year long career as a geochemist. He has published more than 100 scientific articles covering the full breadth of applied geochemistry, including a geochemical atlas. In 1954, he began a remarkable career with the Geological Survey of Norway (NGU) where, until 1980, he worked as a

geochemist, and from 1980 to 1991, he served as the Director of the Geochemistry Department. He retired from NGU in 1991, but has remained extremely active in geochemical research as a consultant to NGU to the present time. Bjørn spent leaves of absence from NGU as a United Nations expert on geochemical exploration in Ecuador from 1965 to 1967, and as a Visiting Professor at Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana (USA) from 1989 to 1990.

He was Adjunct Professor of Applied Geochemistry at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology from 1991 to 1999. He has served as a superior mentor to many young geochemists both in Norway and other countries. Bjørn has authored or co-authored more than 100 scholarly works addressing a wide range of issues, such as geochemical exploration for metals, medical geology, natural heavy-metal poisoning of soils, electrogeochemistry, regional geochemical mapping, and statistical treatment of geochemical data.

Among other achievements, he recognised the important connection between geochemistry and health long before most of his colleagues. He must be seen as one of the founding fathers of the emerging field of '*Medical Geology*'. For many years, he advocated for low-density geochemistry and for geochemical mapping of the globe, before this became a recognised necessity. The IAGC sponsored '*Arthur Darnley Symposium*' at IGC33 was thus a fitting venue for awarding the Vernadsky medal to Bjørn Bølviken.