

IUR Vernadsky Award 2014

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Dear François, Dear IUR, Dear Friends and Colleagues

I am very pleased and rather humble to receive such a prestigious award,
- an award that previously has been given to internationally very distinguished scientists.

I will thank the IUR Board for their decision, and will use the opportunity to thank my collaborators, locally, regionally and internationally for many fruitful years within radioecological research.

First, I will thank my late Professor in Nuclear chemistry, Professor Aleco Pappas, for showing me the beauty of big bang, the production of matter, the life cycles of stars and telling me that all elements on earth are ashes from dead stars – and that uranium – as many of us are focusing on – is the residue of supernova explosions. This provides an interesting perspective of what we are working with.

I will thank the Isotope Laboratory at my university that has developed into an innovative and creative research environment, especially when we together with Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (NRPA) established CERAD Centre of excellence for environmental Radioactivity, one year ago. The centre is supported by 4 research institutions in Norway and a network of 10 well-merited international scientists. The Centre is supported by the Research Council of Norway for 10 years to perform basic science in Environmental radioactivity – quite an opportunity!

Traditionally, the collaboration within radioecology has been strong among the Nordic countries, especially with Sweden and Denmark. Even more important is the collaboration with scientists from most of the European countries, where strong networks have been

created over many years. I believe we have participated in 25-30 EC projects, although Norway is not a member of the European Union.

We have collaborated with Russia during the last 25 years, and with several former SU republics, especially Ukraine and Central Asia, and these countries are offering field sites of key interest for radioecologists. Last, but not least, I am very pleased with the collaboration that has been established with Canada and US, and also Africa and Australia should be mentioned.

Finally, I would acknowledge the work of international organisations such as IAEA and NATO SPS, and in particular, IUR, for creating important meeting places for the scientists as the international networking is an essential tool for promoting new science.

Therefore, this award is encouraging, not only for me, but should also be encouraging for all my collaborators!

Thank you

Professor Dr. Philos. Brit Salbu