

Short biography - Hallvard Ødegaard



Hallvard Ødegaard (born 11.12.1945 in Voss, Norway) is professor emeritus of the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim, Norway – from where he also received his M.Sc.-degree (1969) and Dr. Ing.- degree (1977), as well as CEO of Scandinavian Environmental Technology (SET).

Since 1977 he was professor of Water and Wastewater Treatment at Department of Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering, at NTNU, a position he retired from in 2011. Since then he has been professionally active in his own consulting company (Scandinavian Environmental Technology AS).

He was visiting professor at EAWAG, Switzerland (1991), Hokkaido University, Japan (1999) and CSIRO, Molecular Science, Melbourne (2000)

The research of prof. Ødegaard was focused on treatment of drinking water, wastewater and industrial process water. His specialities are; Particle separation processes; Biofilm processes; Disinfection processes; Removal of humic substance in drinking water treatment; Nutrient removal in water and wastewater treatment. He has written more than 500 publications, out of which several books and more than 300 refereed papers published internationally. He is the inventor of the Moving bed biofilm reactor (MBBR), the most frequently used biofilm reactor today, and holds 5 international patents.

Professor Ødegaard has been active in several international associations. He was Member of Council of al European Water Pollution Control Association (EWPCA, now EWA) in the period 1984 – 1991 and was Vice President and Chairman of the Technical and Scientific Committee of EWPCA 1990-91.

For his long-lasting contribution to the International Water Association (IWA) Professor Ødegaard was appointed Distinguished Fellow of IWA in 2014 and Honorary Member of IWA in 2016.

Norway had no tradition in water and wastewater treatment prior to 1970 when Ødegaard started his professional career. He is without doubt “the grand old man” of this professional area in Norway, and has contributed significantly to water treatment throughout the world with teaching, research, and technical development in almost all areas of the water treatment sector.

For his contribution in water research, he was awarded in 2011 The Royal Norwegian order of St. Olavs – officer, knight of 1. Class. The Order of St. Olav is the highest civilian honour currently conferred by Norway.