

In Memoriam



Bo Döös, 1922–2010

Professor and meteorologist Bo Döös died in January 2010 at the age of 87.

In 1951 Bo was employed at the Department of Meteorology, Stockholm University as an assistant to professor Carl-Gustaf Rossby. There he became engaged as an important member of the pioneering group of international scientists that in 1954 carried out the world's first operational numerical weather forecast. One of his main contributions was the development of methods for objective analysis or data-assimilation as it is nowadays called. During the following years Bo worked as a division head at the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) that included the task of setting up an operational system for numerical weather prediction. During the years 1965–1970 he held a position as professor of Meteorology at Stockholm University where he was a much appreciated lecturer and supervisor.

During the years 1971–1982 Bo played a key role as a Head of the Global Atmospheric Research Programme (GARP), one of the largest observational programs ever carried out. GARP laid the foundation for the present satellite based observation system, which enabled the development of high quality global weather forecasts. During later years he was Deputy Director and Leader of the Environmental Programme of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Austria and a consultant to the German government. During this period he widened his research interest from meteorology and climatology to include also issues on global food production.

Bo also played an important role in the process of formation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He became a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in 1983.

Bo was a cheerful and humorous person with a considerable diplomatic talent. Together with his solid scientific competence these qualities made him an appreciated and often asked for leader within the international meteorological organizational community. He could ease tensions in the most strained meeting atmospheres and formulate constructive ways to proceed.

Friends and former colleagues will remember many happy and instructive moments with Bo Döös.

Henning Rodhe, Lennart Bengtsson, Harald Lejenäs, Hilding Sundqvist.