

The 2010 Crafoord Prize awarded to Walter Munk



Professor Walter Munk (right) receives the 2010 Crafoord Prize from the hands of His Majesty, the King of Sweden. (Photo: Johan Nilsson)

In 1980 Dr. Holger Crafoord and Mrs. Anna-Greta Crafoord provided funds to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences for the award of a major scientific prize. It was prescribed that the prize should be awarded annually within the consecutive fields of astronomy, biosciences, geosciences, mathematics, and polyarthritis. In May 2010, Prof. Walter Munk, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, California, USA, received the Crafoord Prize for his outstanding research contributions in geophysics. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences motivated the selection of Professor Munk as the 2010 Crafoord laureate by emphasising 'his pioneering and fundamental contributions to our understanding of ocean circulation, tides and waves, and their role in the Earth's dynamics'.

The Crafoord Days 2010 occupied three consecutive days in May. During the first day, a scientific symposium was held at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm. Walter Munk gave the opening lecture entitled 'The Sound of Climate Change', which is included in the present issue of Tellus. During the remainder of the day, lectures were given by scientists whose work reflect aspects of Munk's pioneering and versatile achievements in oceanography and geophysics. The ceremony when the prize was presented to Professor Munk by His Majesty the King of Sweden took place the second day and was followed by a banquet. The activities the final day were located to Lund in southern Sweden, the hometown of the Crafoord family, where Professor Munk gave the Crafoord Prize Lecture.

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