

Outstanding Contribution to Research into Climate Change.

Professor Dr. Reto Knutti, professor for climate physics at the ETHZ has been honoured with the Dr. J.E.Brandenberger Foundation Award 2018 for his outstanding contribution both to climate change research and to the transmission of this research to a wider general public in order to develop a much needed greater awareness of the issue.

With this award, we are honouring and acknowledging the undismayed and sustained commitment of a university teacher and researcher to the protection of our climate, a commitment which stretches far beyond the borders of this country.

Furthermore, Professor Dr.Knutti has understood how to reach out to society at large with the findings of his research and has greatly contributed in making climate research accessible and socio-politically relevant.

The award worth 200,000 Swiss Francs is the highest of its kind in Switzerland. And it is due to the bequest of the founder of this trust, Marthe Brandenberger, the only daughter (child) of the inventor of cellophane Dr. J.E.Brandenberger, that we are able to bestow this award for the **twenty ninth** time.

It was her intention that the award should go to persons who devote themselves to improving the life and circumstances of others and in doing so show themselves to be individuals of great merit.

“All of which” as the foundation’s President Carlo Schmid-Sutter says “applies in no small measure to Dr. Reto Knutti.” Our awareness of climate change has increased and this is not just because of last summer’s heatwaves. This is largely because Reto Knutti has exploited new ways of transmitting climate change knowledge so it can be understood and assimilated by those who are not expert in the field of climate physics,

Thus, Dr Knutti has been able to reach a much wider audience. He has been able to convey the consequences of his climate change research findings by means that have ensured those findings have become relevant outside the walls of academia and resonate both in the political arena and the minds of the general public.”

Reto Knutti grew up in Gstaad where, even as a school child, he was already interested in the climate. “That is because I lived in the mountains” he explains, “life in the mountains is closely dependent on the weather.” On leaving school, it was clear to him that he wanted to study physics at the University of Bern. His role model was and still is, the renowned Bernese climate physicist Professor Dr. Thomas Stocker. As Dr. Knutti himself puts it: “He is, even today, a shining example for me.”

What do we want our world to look like in 20 or 30 years’ time? How can we increase our awareness of the risks posed by climate change? How can we achieve social and political acceptance of the incontrovertible facts provided by climate research?

Dr. Reto Knutti is one of the main authors of the Climate Assessment Report produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate,(IPCC). As such he documents the impact of global warming on our planet. He leads the Climate Physics Group at the Institute for Atmospheric and Climate Science in the Department of Environmental Systems Science at the ETH Zurich.

He is also a Delegate for Sustainability at the ETH and president of ProClim. Moreover, he is a tireless advocate dedicated to bringing a better understanding of the complexities of climate change and its effects on our world, to the attention of the general public; educating and leading public opinion along the path to a greater feeling of responsibility towards our environment.

Dr. Knutti will be presented with the Dr. J.E.Brandenberger Foundation award on 24th November 2018 in Zurich.

The Laudation will be held by Professor Dr. Lino Guzella from the ETH Zurich.