

Special Plenary 1

Monday 11 December - 11.00am to 11.45am

“Sagacity and Significant Stretch for Survival”
by Professor Sir Gareth Roberts FRS CEng
CPhys FInstP

Abstract

Properly implemented, a strategic planning process, where the emphasis is clearly on innovation and creativity, can help an organisation do more than plan for the future; it can help to create its future.

This lecture describes how simple visual planning tools can be useful in identifying strategic issues of importance and help to provide a consistent discipline for decision and policy matters. Examples are taken from industry and academe to illustrate this theme.

Biography

A native of North Wales, Gareth Roberts began his academic career at The University College of North Wales, Bangor where he obtained a first class honours degree in physics and a doctorate. He has also held Chairs at The New University of Ulster, The University of Durham and The University of Oxford.

He is currently involved with the following national organisations and institutions: President of the Institute of Physics; Board member of the Higher Education Funding Council for England; Board member of the

Regional Development Agency for Yorkshire and the Humber; Director of the Universities Superannuation Scheme Ltd; Chairman of the DTI / CVCP Research Careers Initiative; Chairman of the Genome Valley Steering Group; and Chairman of Medical Solutions plc.

Sir Gareth was appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sheffield in January 1991. He will be leaving Sheffield on 1 April 2001 to take up the Presidency of Wolfson College, University of Oxford.

He is a former Chairman of the CVCP and was knighted in 1997 for his services to higher education.

Special Plenary 2

Tuesday 12 December - 9.00am to 9.45am

“Developments in Science/Physics Policy and Funding in the UK” by Dr Alun Jones, Chief Executive IOP

Abstract

The past two years have seen significant improvements in funding for Physics in the United Kingdom, with a commensurate enhancement in the public and governmental appreciation of the benefits of Physics research. The Institute of Physics has been particularly active in lobbying Government and “decision makers” through a series of “Vision Papers” which highlight the importance to knowledge, wealth creation and quality of life of various aspects of physics research.

A series of seminars was organised aimed at bringing to a wider audience news of developments in our subject and also an intensive campaign to increase press coverage. This has happened at a time when the Institute’s membership has increased apace and it now stands at over 30,000 - more than double what it was in 1990.

Biography

Dr Jones obtained his DPhil in nuclear physics at the University of Oxford. He then went to the USA to carry on his work at the Lockheed Missile and Space Laboratories in Palo Alto. He returned to the UK and, after a brief period in Oxford, joined *Nature* where in 1973 he became Acting Editor before joining British Steel in London. He became Assistant Director of the Technical Change Centre in 1981 and Deputy Director of the Wolfson Foundation (an endowed grant-giving charity) in 1986. He was made Director of the Foundation in 1987 and in 1990 he was appointed Chief Executive of the Institute of Physics.

