
News

Peter Gluckman receives 2015 AAAS Award for Science Diplomacy

Prof Sir Peter Gluckman, who convened the 2014 international conference for governmental science advisers and now chairs the International Network for Science Advice to Governments that emerged from the conference, has been chosen by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) to receive the 2015 Award for Science Diplomacy.

He was honoured by AAAS for transforming the theory and practice of science advice – an essential component of science diplomacy – by bringing its practitioners together into a global network.

‘In an increasingly interconnected world characterised by global threats, the demand for good scientific advice has arguably never been greater. While many governments have structures and systems in place to provide this at a national level, the cross-border nature of these threats means that the need for effective communication and coordination between scientific advisers is becoming increasingly essential,’ the nominating committee wrote.

Gluckman was nominated to receive the 2015 AAAS Award by an advisory committee including Cathleen Campbell, president and CEO of CRDF Global; William Colglazier, past science and technology adviser to the US Secretary of State and former executive officer of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council; and Romain Murenzi, executive director of The World Academy of Sciences. The committee cited Gluckman’s leadership in using science diplomacy to benefit New Zealand. Under his tenure as the Prime Minister’s Chief Science Advisor, New Zealand established the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases. The Alliance, which now counts 46 countries as members, focuses on the research and development of methods to grow food using climate-resilient systems without increasing emissions – and demonstrates the significant role that small nations can play on the global stage through science diplomacy.

Gluckman is also the founding head of the secretariat of the Small Advanced Economies Initiative and served as co-chair of the World Health Organization Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity. He also proposed that the Asia Pacific Economic Council should have a grouping of chief science advisers; the group, the first formalised regional network of its kind anywhere, was approved in 2012 with Gluckman as its standing co-chair.

Source: <http://www.aaas.org/news/sir-peter-gluckman-receives-2015-aaas-award-science-diplomacy-bringing-together-science>

