



Ola M. Johannessen

Knight of the Royal Norwegian Order of St.Olav in 2008

OMJ started his studies in 1958 at the University of Oslo, moving to Geophysical Institute, University of Bergen in 1960 and as a Scientific Assistant from 1962. He obtained the Cand.Mag.Degree in 1963 and his Cand.Real.Degree in June 1965. He then took up a Ford Foundation Visiting Professorship at the Oceanographic Institute, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil in 1965/66. He was then appointed as Assistant/Associate Professor at Marine Science Center, McGill University, Montreal, Canada during the period 1966-1970 before moving as scientist/deputy group leader at the Nato Saclant ASW Centre in La Spezia, Italy for a period of 4 years. Thereafter he was appointed as Assistant and Associate Professor at the Geophysical Institute, University of Bergen in 1974, before he was promoted to a tenured personal Professor in remote sensing, the first such chair in Norway in 1987. He was the Founding Director of the Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing in Bergen during the period 1986-2009, Chairman of the Board during 2010-2011, followed by a period as a Nansen Fellow during 2012-2016. He was also the President of the Nansen Center in St.Petersburg, Russia, Co-Chair of the Nansen Centers, Cochin, India, in Beijing, China, Cape Town, South Africa and Dhaka, Bangladesh for many years with a total staff of more than 200 scientists and students. He held the Arctic Chair at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, USA in 1982, Visiting Scientist at MIT, Boston, USA in the fall of 1985, Visiting Guest Professor at Peking University 2008-2010 and Visiting Professor at the Institute of Atmospheric Physics, Chinese Academy of Science in 2004-2019. At present he is the Director of the Nansen Scientific Society.

OMJ is presently involved in the following scientific fields: Arctic climate system, climate teleconnection between low and high latitude, impacts of population increase on climate using the Arctic as an example and new pioneering research how internal waves can be generated by ocean eddies. Previously he was involved in fjord circulation, sea level and coastal circulation off Brazil, ice drift in the Gulf of St.Lawrence, Canada, ocean front and microlayers studies in the Mediterranean and Barents Sea, Marginal Ice Zone studies in the Norwegian, Greenland and Barents Seas, Northern Sea Route studies, radioactive studies in the Russian Arctic, climate studies of the Arctic including the Greenland Ice sheet, deep water formation in the Greenland Sea, studies in the Norwegian Coastal Current, circulation and upwelling studies in the Indian Ocean including the Monsoon system. He has been the leader of more than 25 national and international projects including the leader of 15 national and international field investigations with research vessels, icebreakers, remote sensing aircrafts and satellites. The largest one was the Marginal Ice Zone (MIZ) between Spitsbergen and Greenland, MIXEX 1984 where 7 research vessels/icebreakers took part including 8 remote sensing airplanes, 4 helicopters, two satellite systems and more than 200 scientists and technicians from 11 nations, resulting in breakthrough results in MIZ.

OMJ is the author and co-author of more than 800 publications of which 10 are books and 200 are in referee journals and books (e.g. 8 in Science). The remaining publications are Proceedings, Technical and Special Reports including outreach articles for the public, all on ResearchGate. He had been the supervisor/co-supervisor to 40 PhD and Master students. OMJ has received 15 Awards for his research e.g. the Fram Committee Nansen Award in 2002, Laureate of the EU Descartes Prize in Earth Science in 2005, the Nansen Medal for Outstanding Research in 2007 and His Majesty King Harald V of Norway the Royal Norwegian Order of St.Olav, Knight of First Class in 2008 as the seventh Norwegian Physical Oceanographer who was awarded St.Olav after the famous oceanographers Fridtjof Nansen (1889), Henrik Mohn (1890), Harald Ulrik Sverdrup (1926), Bjørn Helland Hansen (1936), Jonas Fjeldstad (1965), Håkon Mosby (1971) and Ola M.Johannessen (2008). OMJ is a member of 6 Scientific Academies including the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters and Honorary Membership of the Norwegian Academy of Technological Sciences. He was the first President of the Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research in the period 2008-2012.