



Press Information

Former Sandvik Head of R&D is awarded highest distinction by Sweden's oldest trade body

Professor Olle Wijk, former Head of Research and Development (R&D) at Sandvik, has been awarded the Jernkontoret's grand gold medal in recognition of his life's work devoted to the development of steel and the Swedish steel research network.

"I was extremely touched by receiving this award and feel proud and humble at the prospect of this distinction – it means a lot to me," said Professor Olle Wijk.

Professor Wijk was Head of R&D for Sandvik Materials Technology between 2005 and 2012, and also for Sandvik Group for the last few years up until his retirement in April 2016. He was recently appointed Visiting Professor at Shanghai University in China.

Jernkontoret's grand gold medal is the highest distinction awarded by the Society of Ironmasters. The medal was established in the 1700s, and since 1767 has been used to reward notable individuals within the field of Swedish mining.

The medal has previously been awarded to Sandvik's founder, Göran Fredrik Göransson, and his grandson, Fredrik Göransson, in 1942.

Petra Einarsson, President of Sandvik Materials Technology, said: "The prestigious Jernkontoret's grand gold medal is a well-earned recognition that Professor Olle Wijk has dedicated his entire professional career to the development of steel including manufacturing processes and material characteristics."

"Professor Wijk's contribution as Head of R&D and Technology was exemplary through his extensive expertise regarding steel, leading research teams and industrial operations. He has

made vital contributions to the development of steel and the Group's strategy, and his achievements are recognized across the industry.”

Olle Wijk began his research career at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) at the beginning of the 1970s. In May 1980, he gained his Ph.D in Process Metallurgy before starting at Sandvik as Process Developer for metallurgy. For nine years starting in 1987, Olle held a Professorship in Applied Process Metallurgy at KTH, Stockholm. Olle returned to Sandvik in 1996, where he remained until his retirement.

He was an early participant in the joint Nordic steel research network, which he saw as a highly important and unique enterprise in terms of producing new findings to benefit the steel industry and opening up opportunities for young civil engineers to develop their skills and establish rewarding networks across the industry.

Professor Wijk was previously awarded the KAMI prize for laying the scientific foundations for reducing the slag particle content in certain types of steel by more than 99 percent. He has also received KTH's gold medal for industrial collaboration.

Jernkontoret is the Swedish steel industry trade association. Founded in 1747, it is the oldest trade body. The organization is devoted to utilizing the steel industry's interests by promoting the best possible conditions for the operations in Sweden.

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