

Geologist David Gee, awarded the title “Geologist of the year 2008”.

The “Geologist of the year” annual award

The distinction “Geologist of the year”, introduced in 1997, is awarded every year to a person whose work is an outstanding contribution to Earth Sciences and geology in Sweden. The “Geologist of the year” is nominated by the *Swedish Association of Scientists, Geology Section* and celebrated in late autumn with a day of public seminars, a ceremony and a banquet.

The primary criteria for being awarded as “Geologist of the year” is one’s endeavour to advance the role and importance of geology in society, as a professional geologist and/or through deep engagement in questions and project of national or international importance.

The title “*Geologist of the year 2008*” has been awarded to *David Gee*. His deep personal dedication for Earth Sciences in general and geology in particular spans several decades and most of Europe. An always recurrent ingredient in his work is collaboration across borders – be it between countries or fields of expertise. This resulted, for example, in the success of one of Europe’s largest Earth Science projects, EURO-PROBE, where he acted as chairman from 1998 to its termination in 2002. His retirement from a position as professor in Orogen Dynamics at Uppsala University allowed him to devote even more time to important appointments within Earth Sciences, e.g. as chairman of the Science Committee of the 33rd International Geological Congress and as senior adviser of the International Polar Year. The “Geologist of the year” award is also an appreciation for David Gee’s engagement in politically infected questions such as climate change and the world’s energy supply, where he promotes decision making based on scientific results rather than dogmatism of popular ideas.

David Gee will receive the “Geologist of the year 2008” award in November in Uppsala. To his honour, the *Swedish Association of Scientists, Geology Section* will arrange a seminar day on Earth Science.

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