

Association Announcement

Dr. Zhao Pengda: Krumbein Medalist

The fifteenth recipient of the William Christian Krumbein Medal is Dr. Zhao Pengda. The Krumbein Medal is awarded each year by the International Association for Mathematical Geology for original contributions to the field of mathematical geology, service to the profession, and support of the activities of the IAMG.

Dr. Zhao is currently full professor at the China University of Geosciences (Wuhan), where he also serves as President. Born in the province of Liao Ning in 1931, he graduated from the Geological Department of Beijing University in 1952, whereupon he was appointed as assistant to teach in the newly-founded Beijing Geological Institute. In 1954, he was sent to Moscow, USSR as a postgraduate student, and studied methods of prospecting and exploration for mineral deposits under Professor A. A. Yakren. He obtained his Ph.D. in 1958 from the geological institute; the title of his dissertation was: "The geological characteristics and methods of exploration for tin and tungsten ore deposits, stockwork type."

In 1960, he was appointed Associate Professor at the Beijing Geological Institute, and attained the rank of full Professor in 1980. Meanwhile, the Institute was moved to Wuhan and became Wuhan College of Geology in 1975. Appointed President in 1983, Dr. Zhao retained this post following reorganization of the college in 1987 to create the China University of Geosciences (Wuhan).

Dr. Zhao has been researching the use of mathematical and statistical methods in mineral exploration since 1956. An early study used a binomial distribution model to predict the rate of successful bore holes in complex ore bodies using different bore hole spacings. In 1976, he began applying mathematical models to predict and assess mineral resources, specifically iron and copper deposits in a Mesozoic volcanic basin in southern China. Work along these lines resulted in a book written with two coauthors: "Statistical Prediction for Mineral Deposits," published in 1983. In total, he has published three books and over 60 papers. His current research includes work with expert systems, statistical

theory and methods of prediction, and integrated modeling of geochemical anomalies and ranking by favorability.

He has taught courses in mathematical geology, statistical analysis of geoexploration data, and statistical prediction of mineral deposits since 1983.

Recently, Dr. Zhao served as chairman of an international workshop: Statistical Prediction and Assessment for Mineral Deposits, held in Wuhan in 1990.

Dr. Zhao has been a member of the IAMG for many years, and has furthered the field of mathematical geology through his teaching and publications.

We welcome Dr. Zhao Pengda as recipient of the William Christian Krumbein Medal, the first Medalist from Asia, and father of Mathematical Geology in China.