

## **Juhani Kakkuri 1933 – 2022**

Professor Emeritus Juhani Kakkuri, former Director General of the Finnish Geodetic Institute passed away in Helsinki on August 6, 2022. He was 88 years old, born in Kurikka in west Finland on September 12, 1933.

Already during his school time, he had summer jobs at the Geodetic Institute, FGI, as a clerk and assistant on fieldwork expeditions. That began a lifelong career. After receiving his MSc degree from the University of Helsinki in 1960 he started as a civil servant in FGI and retired 38 years later as the Director General of the FGI.

Kakkuri's PhD dissertation in the early 1970s was on stellar triangulation, the principle of which academician Yrjö Väisälä, Kakkuri's teacher, had already presented in the 1940s.

Measuring the distance of satellites using a laser had become possible in the 1970s. Under the supervision of Kakkuri, Northern Europe's first Satellite Laser Ranging system was built at Metsähovi in 1978. It was the beginning of the Metsähovi geodetic research station, which today is one of the core stations of the global geodetic network. Throughout his career, Kakkuri sought to develop Metsähovi's operations.

In the 1990's he was leading the IAG Special Study Group "The Baltic Sea Level Project". It was a joint effort of all the countries around the Baltic Sea with three large GPS campaigns. Ambitious goals of the Project were the unification of the vertical datums, to contribute to the determination of the gravity field and the geoid in the Baltic Sea region, to determine the sea level and sea surface topography of the Baltic Sea, and to monitor postglacial rebound, especially in the sea area. The postglacial rebound was one of his research topics.

Juhani Kakkuri held several national and international positions of trust. He was an honorary professor at Wuhan University and an honorary doctor at Stuttgart University, a member of the German Geodetic Commission, a member of the Finnish Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Technical Sciences, and was awarded the Palmén medal of the Geophysical Society of Finland for his meritorious work. Asteroid 3597 Kakkuri is named after him.

After retirement, Kakkuri wrote several popular science books, travelogues about his travels in all parts of the world, and biographies of his predecessors Veikko Heiskanen and Tauno J. Kukkamäki. His last work was the autobiography "Memoirs from the world of geodesists", published in the series of FGI in 2021.

Markku Poutanen