Claude Lorius

Director Emeritus of Research at Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Grenoble

2001 Balzan Prize for Climatology

For his outstanding activities and innovative results in the field of polar paleoclimatology.

Institution Administering Funds: CNRS, Grenoble

Adviser for the Balzan General Prize Committee: Enric Banda

Research on the Mechanisms Governing the Climate System

One of the most important methods of inquiry into past climate change is the study of polar ice, which is a natural laboratory preserving a "historic memory" of climate changes. Claude Lorius and his group worked for decades on this issue. They were the first to reconstruct not only the history of the Earth's climate by analyzing polar ice, but also that of the composition of the atmosphere, derived from the analysis of air bubbles that were trapped in the ice during the last hundreds of thousand years. Their researches allowed them to establish the causal relationships between climate and content of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Publications (in chronological order):

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