

Joachim Luther

Chief Executive Officer of SERIS - Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore at the National University of Singapore.

After gaining his doctorate in Experimental Physics in Hanover in 1970, Prof. Luther worked primarily on atomic physics and laser spectroscopy. In 1974 he became a Professor for Experimental Physics at the newly founded University of Oldenburg. There, he began research on physical basis renewable energy resources. His work was centered on the theory of renewable energy systems and "Energy Meteorology".

In 1992, in parallel with his professorship in Oldenburg, Luther took on the management of the "Niedersächsisches Institut für Solarenergieforschung GmbH". In 1993, he moved to Freiburg. There he accepted a professorship for Solid State Physics and Physical Fundamentals of Solar Energy Utilisation at the University of Freiburg. At the same time, he also was head of the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems ISE since 1993. Under his leadership, the staff had more than doubled to 410, and operates with an annual budget of around 25 million euros (not including investments). 35 % of wich is based on projects directly linked with industry.

Professor Luther has a high international reputation. He is involved in numerous international and national bodies. For example, he was a member of the Board of Directors of the International Solar Energy Society ISES between 1992 and 2001. From 2000 to the end of 2004, Professor Luther has been advisor of the German Federal Government on global environmental change. He belonged to the Energy Research Working Group of the "Wissenschaftsrat der Bundesrepublik Deutschland" from 1996 to 1998. Between 1997 and 2002, he was the President of the EUREC Agency, which represents 40 research institutes from all EU countries and has advisory status with the EU. A further activity at the international level is his co-ordination of the energy topic within the Global Research Alliance GRA, in which nine internationally renowned institutions for applied research co-operate.

Within the "Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft", the largest German organisation for applied research, Luther is a member of the Senate, he belongs to the European Advisory Board and is currently acting as Chairman of the Science and Technology Executive Committee. He is the author of numerous publications on energy research, sustainable energy supply, photovoltaic generation of electricity and solar and energy-optimised buildings.

Professor Luther is one of the technological leaders in the field of photovoltaics. The spreading of renewable energy sources is also the goal of the newly founded Fraunhofer Energy Alliance, of which Luther was the chairman until 2006. For his achievements in the field of research and promotion of the market introduction of solar energy systems, Joachim Luther has been awarded the German Environmental Award 2005.