

Sir Keith O’Nions



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Sir Keith O’Nions was President and Rector of Imperial College until 1st September 2014. He became Chair of Cambridge Enterprise in 2014 and Chair of the British Geological Survey in 2017.

Sir Keith has previously held the positions of Professor of Geology at Columbia University, Royal Society Research Professor at University of Cambridge and Head of Earth Sciences at University of Oxford.

He was Chief Scientific Advisor to the Ministry of Defence from January 2000 until 2004. Following which he moved to the Department of Trade and Industry (later the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills) to become Director General, Science and Innovation, and Chief Scientific Advisor – a position he held until 2008.

Sir Keith has participated in a broad range of academic and technological committees and served on the Board of the Natural History Museum from 1995 to 2005 (Chair from 2002) and the Council of Science and Technology from 1998 to 2000.

In 1979 he became a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union and a Member of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters in 1980. He has been a Fellow of the Royal Society since 1983, an Honorary Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences (1998), Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy (2001) and Honorary Fellow Royal Academy of Engineering (2005). He has received honorary doctorates from a number of Universities.

He currently serves on the Board of A*Star, Singapore and is also a Trustee of The Black Stork Charity (Defence National Rehabilitation Centre). At Imperial he is a member of the Advisory Board to the Blast Injury Centre.

Sir Keith was knighted for services to earth sciences in the 1999 Queen's Birthday Honours.