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KNMI Staff Members Holleman and Beekhuis Win Vilho Vaisala Award

In March 2005, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and Vaisala presented the 19th Vilho Vaisala Award to Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI) staff members Iwan Holleman and Hans Beekhuis, in recognition of their innovative work on the Doppler weather radar. In addition to detecting precipitation, the Doppler radar is able to register wind across the whole of the Netherlands.

Holleman and Beekhuis developed a practical method that has greatly improved KNMI's radar-based wind measurements. This brings enormous benefits, especially with gale-force or squally winds on the weather charts.

The prestigious Vilho Vaisala Award is granted annually to celebrate a leading publication in the field of meteorological instrumentation and observation methodology. This year's winning publication *Analysis and Correction of dual PRF Velocity Data* describes the results of an extensive analysis of wind registration data generated by KNMI's Doppler radars. The application of the dual-PRF (Dual Pulse Repetition Frequency) technology inevitably leads to errors. Holleman and Beekhuis have found a way to correct these errors, which has greatly improved the quality of the wind data.

High-quality radar wind data

Holleman and Beekhuis' research has given radar wind data the quality needed for operational purposes. This means that the information is now available to meteorologists for preparing weather forecasts and issuing weather



Kenneth Fors (Vaisala), Michel Jarraud (WMO), Iwan Holleman and Hans Beekhuis at the award ceremony.

alerts and alarms. Additional efforts are being made to further gear the wind data towards specific meteorological uses.

The high-quality wind data are not only used by KNMI meteorologists – they also find their way to government agencies and weather companies, and to the aviation and recreation sectors. Thanks to the international exchange of research results and operational wind data moreover,

other (European) countries will also be able to benefit from this development.

Professor Vilho Väisälä, who passed away in 1969, was an esteemed inventor as well as the founder and long-standing Managing Director of Vaisala. He set an example of creativity, high quality, devotion, pride in professional skills and belief in one's own abilities – all qualities much honored at Vaisala today. ●