

CITATION

PROFESSOR EDWARD ROBINSON, Ph.D., P.G.

Professor Edward “Ted” Robinson, is known locally and internationally for his expert contributions in the earth sciences including paleontology, oceanography, mineral and energy resources and environmental and engineering geology.

Ted Robinson began his Jamaican connections when he met and fell in love with a Jamaican student, Jeanne Mair, while he was an undergraduate at the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom. On completion of his studies, he relocated to Jamaica and was employed as Geologist by the Government of Jamaica in the Geological Survey Department.

He has been active in the government and industrial sectors and academia since 1956 and has made significant contributions to Jamaican and Caribbean geology particularly in the field of biostratigraphy. In the early 1960s, he was instrumental in the formation of the Department of Geology at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica. He was appointed Lecturer in the new Department in 1961, Senior Lecturer and Head in 1965, Reader in 1974 and Professor in 1976. Under his leadership, the Department established and maintained an international reputation for research in geology.

Professor Robinson’s work has contributed to the development of knowledge and use of minerals in Jamaica including high quality limestone, gypsum, anhydrite, silica sand, and bauxite. His work has assisted the country’s oil and gas exploration efforts and he made an outstanding contribution to the understanding of peat resources in Jamaica. Recently, he has produced valuable insights into the coastal erosion activities of Jamaica's marine environment.

Ted Robinson’s honours and recognition are many, including the Norman Manley Award for Excellence in Science and Technology (1978), the Institute of Jamaica's Centenary Medal For Science (1980), Chubb Award for Excellence, the Geological Society of Jamaica (1982), Jamaica Society of Scientists and Technologists Award for Excellence in the field of Environmental Sciences (1985), the Institute of Jamaica’s Silver Musgrave Medal for Science (1995) and the Gleaner Honour Award for Science and Technology (2005).

His local and international professional memberships include: Council member of the Geological Society of Jamaica, member of the Jamaica Institute of Environmental Professionals, Fellow of the Third World Academy of Sciences, member of the Association of Geoscientists for International Development, member of the Caribbean Academy of Sciences, member of the Miami Geological Society. He is a past Board member of the International Geological Correlation Programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. He is currently a Courtesy Professor at Florida International University and has been a Visiting Professor to the University of Puerto Rico and Adjunct Professor to the Rice University, Texas.

Professor Robinson has trained two generations of geologists at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels in the Department of Geology at the University of the West Indies. Many who came under his influence as a teacher, now occupy leadership positions in the business world, in politics, government, science and education.

He has produced over one hundred and forty (140) publications with a half of these being in refereed journals and more than 100 proprietary reports to petroleum, mining and engineering companies and government institutions.

Professor Robinson has contributed much to the geological sciences as well as to the public good. His zeal for training young geologists, his thoughtful inspiration of colleagues, his personal fervor for research and fieldwork and his dedication and service, have all enriched Jamaican science and strengthened the profession of geology. Presently he holds the position of Emeritus Professor of Geology at the University of the West Indies, Mona but is still an active researcher and heads the Marine Geology Unit of the Department of Geography and Geology.

The Government of Jamaica is pleased to recognise the pioneering work and record of excellence of Professor Edward Robinson in the field of the earth sciences and to award him

THE NATIONAL MEDAL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.