



The Right Livelihood Award

for outstanding vision and work on behalf of our planet and its people

Mycle Schneider (France)

Joint Award with Jinzaburo Takagi (1997)



"...for serving to alert the world to the unparalleled dangers of plutonium to human life."

Photo: Wolfgang Schmidt

Mycle Schneider was born in 1959. Interested in the civil and military uses of nuclear energy, and concerned that there was so little international information available in France, he set up WISE-Paris in 1983, as the French connection of the World Information Service on Energy (WISE) International. From 1990 on, it worked independently.

The objectives of WISE-Paris are to develop and distribute high quality information on the various sources and forms of energy; to increase public comprehension of energy issues, especially the impact of the civil and military uses on the health and security of present and future generations, and to increase citizen involvement in environmental and energy saving issues.

In 1988, Schneider was full-time adviser to the Rainbow Group in the European Parliament on the Inquiry Committee on the Handling and Transport of Nuclear Materials. In 1992 he initiated and was one of the authors of the first World Nuclear Industry Status Report published by World Watch Institute, Greenpeace International and WISE-Paris. Recent updates of the report (2004, 2007, 2008) have reached international reference status.

In 1994-95 he co-authored a German TV documentary on the International Commission of Radiological Protection, entitled "With Friendly Recommendation - Radiation Death". He has written many papers and articles on energy and environmental issues, including a series of reports on the connection of Japanese, Belgian, Dutch and German plutonium, as well as Canadian uranium, with the French nuclear weapons programme. Schneider considers the plutonium industry to be "the single most threatening industrial activity for mankind and the environment".

In 1991, Schneider went to Japan at the request of Jinzaburo Takagi, to participate in an International Plutonium Conference. He was struck by the similarities in the two countries' treatment of the nuclear issue, and the two men started working together on the issues of waste and plutonium shipments between the two countries.

With Japan and France hosting the two remaining large-scale interests in plutonium use, and MOX (uranium-plutonium mixed oxide fuel) being the only use for plutonium outside fast breeder reactors (FBRs), Schneider started work with Takagi on a two-year intensive international research project on 'A Comprehensive Social Impact Assessment of MOX in Light Water Reactors', which was released in November 1997.

In December 1997, France shut down its Superphénix FBR. In Japan, after several accidents and scandals, public confidence in the industry decreased dramatically.

Schneider has given evidence and held briefings at Parliaments in Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Switzerland, UK and at the European Parliament. Between 1998 and 2003 he was an advisor to the French Environment Minister's Office and to the Belgian Minister for Energy and Sustainable Development. Since 2000 he has been a consultant on nuclear issues to the German Environment Ministry.

After 20 years in office, Mycle Schneider left his position as Executive Director of WISE-Paris in April 2003 and now works as independent consultant on energy and nuclear policy. Since 2004 he has been in charge of the Environment and Energy Strategies Lecture of the International Master of Science for Project Management for Environmental and Energy Engineering at the French Ecole des Mines in Nantes. He has lectured extensively on four continents, including at Carlton University, Ottawa (Canada), Tsinghua University (China), Ecole de Commerce, Rouen (France), Freie Universität Berlin (Germany) and Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto (Japan).

In 2005 Schneider was appointed as nuclear security specialist to advise the UK Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM). He was on the board of directors of the Takagi Fund for Citizen Science in Tokyo between 2001 and 2005.

In 2006-2007, Mycle Schneider was part of a consultant consortium that assessed nuclear decommissioning and waste management funding issues on behalf of the European Commission.

In 2007, Schneider was appointed as a member of the [International Panel on Fissile Materials \(IPFM\)](#), based at Princeton University, and he joined the [Independent Group of Scientific Experts \(IGSE\)](#) on the detection of clandestine nuclear-weapons-usable materials production.

In 2009, *International Perspectives on Energy Policy and the Role of Nuclear Power*, co-edited by Mycle Schneider, was released. The book includes 31 in-depth country studies by 30 authors. Schneider is the author of the [World Nuclear Industry Status Report 2009](#) and the [World Nuclear Industry Status Report 2010-2011](#).

Quotation

"Nuclear power, far from being a fatality, is a choice. ... Plutonium production and use continue. I am nevertheless confident that it is possible to stop this completely autocratic activity."

Mycle Schneider