

Risto Ihamuotila a new honorary member in 2014

Risto Veikko Artturi Ihamuotila was born on 15th May 1938 and grew up in the manor house of Hista on his family's estate in Espoo. His interest in rural economic matters led him to enrol in the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry at the University of Helsinki, where he gained his doctorate in 1968 with a thesis on farmers' earnings. He then became a junior research fellow of the Academy of Finland, during which time he spent a year as a visiting associate professor at Cornell University. He was appointed professor of agricultural policy at the University of Helsinki in 1973. Once in this position, he rapidly accumulated further significant honorary and representative functions, becoming chairman of the national Research Council for Agriculture and Forestry, a member of the Central Research Council and later of the Science Policy Council, and chairman of the Council for Higher Education. He was elected dean of his own faculty in 1979.

His administrative career within the University of Helsinki continued to pro-

gress favourably in the subsequent years, leading to his election to the positions of first vice-rector in 1985, rector in 1992 and eventually chancellor in 1996–2003. In addition, he successfully discharged numerous other academic duties and held positions in the business world and on defence committees. He became a member of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters in 1984 and was its chairman in 2002–2004. Chancellor Ihamuotila has represented Finland's largest university meritoriously on numerous occasions both at home and abroad, and has used his broad experience in the field of higher education policy to contribute in a constructive manner to the development of the Finnish university network and to strengthen its international relations in the fields that he represents.

Risto Ihamuotila has received prizes and awards for his life's work from numerous organizations, companies and foundations, and it is fitting that he should now be able to add one more to his list: honorary membership of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters.

Matti Ylätaalo