



Professor Robin W. Grimes

Biography

Professor Robin Grimes has been Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office since February 2013. He is responsible for providing advice to the Foreign Secretary, Ministers and officials on science, technology and innovation. His role is to ensure that FCO work on key issues undergoes proper scientific challenge, and to strengthen the scientific and engineering capacity within the Foreign Office. The CSA is supported in his work by the UK Science and Innovation Network attachés based in overseas posts. Robin previously visited Taiwan in his capacity as FCO Chief Scientific Adviser in March 2016.

He is also Professor of Materials Physics at Imperial College. In his research, he uses computer simulation techniques to understand the behaviour of materials for energy applications including nuclear fission and fusion, fuel cells, batteries and solar cells. Professor Grimes is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Professor Robin W. Grimes, FEng

Education: University of Nottingham, B.Sc. July 1982, Mathematical Physics
Case Western Reserve University, M.S. May 1985, Materials Science
University of Keele, Ph.D. August 1988, Chemistry

Current and Immediate Past Positions:

- Foreign & Commonwealth Office Chief Scientific Adviser, from Feb 2013.
- Professor of Materials Physics, Department of Materials, Imperial College, from Oct 2002.
- Director, Centre for Nuclear Engineering, Imperial College London, Aug 2008 – Feb 2013
- Director, Rolls Royce University Technology Centre, Nuclear Engineering, May 2010 – Feb 2013.

UK Parliamentary and Government Activities:

- Specialist Adviser (2011) to the House of Lords Science and Technology Select committee review of nuclear research requirements. Final report “Nuclear Research and Development Capabilities” HL Paper 221.
- Member of the Nuclear Research and Development Advisory Board 2012; recommendations concerning the future of civil nuclear research in the UK in the light of the HoL report. Also, Convenor of the Sub-group reporting on International Issues.
- Led FCO Nuclear Energy Mission to Japan and gave High Commission Lecture, Singapore Nov 2012; member of FCO Mission to Vietnam & Malaysia Feb 2012. Hosted FCO sponsored visit of European nuclear academics to the UK. Member of SIN sponsored visit to Oak Ridge National Laboratory USA Jan 2012.
- Member of the Government Office of Science independent expert panel for their Science & Engineering Assurance Review of the Department for Energy and Climate Change, June – Nov 2011.
- Member of the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) for the duration of the Fukushima incident, providing official advice to COBR (2011).
- State Visit of the Prime Minister of the UK to India, July 2010; adviser on Civil Nuclear and representative of RCUK.
- Oral evidence to Trade and industry Science and Technology Select Committee on “Nuclear New Build: Issues to be Addressed”, 16th May 2006.

Research Councils Activities

- Principal Investigator of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) initiative “Nuclear Champion” which co-ordinates and supports academic nuclear energy research between UK universities and represents the Research Councils to UK government.
- Principal Investigator for the £6.4M research consortium “Keeping the Nuclear Option Open”, part of the overall programme “Towards a Sustainable Energy Economy”, which ran from 2005 to 2009.
- Member of the Research Council’s Energy Research Mission to South Africa, Feb 2006.

Current Research:

Research Group consists of 4 post-doctoral Research Fellows and 6 PhD students. £2.4M in research grants currently held. 240 refereed research papers, 4400+ citations. Focus: the application of computer simulation to problems associated with the physics and chemistry of industrially significant energy related materials: nuclear, solar, fuel cells, batteries & sensors.