

# Prof. CHRISTOPHER JOHN ADAMS, MA(Oxon), D.Phil, FRSC

## *Current professional portfolio*

XeF6 Consulting, specialising in innovation in green science and sustainable technology, in UK and continental Europe.

Honorary Professor in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Departments Queen's University Belfast, especially with QUILL (the ionic liquids research group)

Maintaining an involvement in Industry-University collaboration in science and innovation, through the ACENET ERAnet (Executive Board member, Main Board IMPACT Faraday Ltd.; Sustainable Technologies Strategy Board, CIKTN; Institute of Welsh Affairs

## *Career History*

### *Education & Academic*

1964 -1968 Jesus College, Oxford. BA, 1st Class Honours School of Natural Science, Chemistry: University Gibbs Prize for Chemistry

1968 - 1970 Jesus College Oxford, D. Phil, Inorganic Chemistry

1970 - 1973 Research Lecturer, Christ Church, Oxford

1970 - 1971 Salters' Company Research Fellow, Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory, Oxford

1971 - 1973 Harkness Fellow, University of California, Berkeley

1973 - 1975 IBM Research Fellow, Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory, Oxford and Junior Research Fellow, Exeter College, Oxford

### *1975 – 2000 Unilever Research*

1975 – 1981 Theme Leader, "Inorganic" and "Precipitation" Research Themes

1981 – 1986 Section Leader, Cracking Catalysts

1986 – 1992 Head of Laundry Product Research

1992 – 1997 Director of Chemicals Research and Head of Scientific Sciences

### *1998- Post Unilever*

1998 – 2005 Director/CEO, The Institute of Applied Catalysis

## *Career Flavour*

Before Unilever I was an academic inorganic chemist working on noble gas chemistry, fluorine chemistry and vibrational spectroscopy at two universities: Oxford and Berkeley. Berkeley in the early '70s was a formative experience, especially the first Earth Day.

In yr 2000 I finished a 25-year career with Unilever, most of which was in senior research management positions. Within that, I'm most proud of the following achievements:

- Creating a unique understanding of phase changes during the precipitation of calcium carbonate
- Setting up from scratch a small research team on cracking catalysts that produced world leading product and manufacturing technology in 5 years.
- Initiating and delivering innovations in laundry products reaching millions of consumers: new environmentally friendly components and new product forms.
- Leading a scientific services group utilising advanced techniques and working with over 900 projects which generated zero complaints in three years.
- Introducing new measurement and modelling techniques into speciality chemicals companies
- Leading the development of new manufacturing technology for oleochemicals and fragrances.

When in 1997 Unilever sold its speciality chemicals businesses to ICI, I engineered a 3-year secondment for myself to help set up and run as Director/CEO the Institute of Applied Catalysis (iAc), a new type of virtual institute involving 15 companies and over 30 universities. It provided a model for the later Faraday

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Partnerships, iAc broke a lot of new ground in developing projects bringing together chemists and engineers, and in developing new approaches to education in applied catalysis, and was one of the progenitors of ACENET, the Applied catalysis ERAnet..

### ***Recent and Current Professional activities***

- Former Member of SOCSA Innovation Group, IChemE Research Committee
- Former Council Member of Royal Society of Chemistry
- Former member Foresight Chemicals Panel, CIA SETCOM, , EURACHEM
- University Review Bodies: Royal Institution, Edinburgh University Chemistry Dept, Sheffield University Process Engineering Dept.
- Scientific advisor to NATO Science for Peace projects
- Selected Invited Lectures
  - 2005 Workshop “Green Chemistry: an Australian Imperative”
  - 2004 Green Chemistry Gordon Conference, opening talk on “Factors controlling commercialisation of green chemical technology”
  - 2004 OECD workshop on Sustainable Chemistry: “Catalysis and Green Chemistry”
  - 2002 Green Solvents Conference, Bruchsal: “Management of Emerging Technologies: Lessons for and from Green Solvents”
- Chair, RSC North Wales Section
- Writing and popular science lectures: Science in everyday life; on Human Ecology: topics linking chemistry, chemical engineering, and society e.g. "The Chemist in the Laundry" and “Innovating with Green Technology”

### ***A few other points:***

Main interests are human ecology, Welsh culture, cats, Slow Food Movement, cooking, herbs, photography, world music.

I am Vice-Chairman of the Council of Management of Ruthin School