



Professor Alan J. Thorpe - Biography

Since 2011 Professor Alan Thorpe has been the Director-General of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF).

Alan obtained a physics degree from the University of Warwick and a PhD in atmospheric physics from Imperial College London. Subsequently he was a research fellow at Imperial College working on the dynamics of organised cumulonimbus systems. From 1982 to 1999 Alan was an academic in the Department of Meteorology at the University of Reading.

His research has been on the dynamics and predictability of organised convective storms and extra-tropical weather systems and latterly on climate; he has published over 110 papers in atmospheric science. He has played major roles in international research programmes such as FASTEX and THORPEX.

In 1999 Alan moved to the UK Met Office to become the Director of the Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research. In 2001 Alan was appointed as the founding Director of the UK's National Centre for Atmospheric Science. From 2005 to 2011, he was the Chief Executive of the UK's Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), which is the largest funder of environmental science research in the UK universities and institutes.