

Former ISS Rector Professor Jos G.M. Hilhorst passed away

Sadly we share the news that former ISS rector Professor Jos Hilhorst suddenly passed away on September 27, 2020

Professor Hilhorst was born in 1934 in Rotterdam. He studied economics at the Catholic University in Tilburg between 1953 and 1959. In 1964 he defended his doctoral dissertation which was supervised by the late Professor Jan Tinbergen at the Netherlands School of Economics, which later became Erasmus University. Before joining the ISS in 1962 he did several years economic research at the Central Bureau of Statistics.

During his academic career he wrote no less than 22 monographs and 30 chapters and articles, not counting the many reports he prepared for governments and international organizations. In the second half of the 80s, Jos Hilhorst figured among the international top-30 of Dutch economists, based on an international citation index.

He was a regional economic development specialist. His major publications reveal a dual approach: rigorous disciplinary economic analysis combined with interdisciplinary policy analysis.

In many respects Jos Hilhorst was a Dutch planner in the tradition of Jan Tinbergen but in contrast to that tradition Hilhorst gave more attention to the procedural aspects of *how* planning is done. The systems approach of his early years transformed over the years to a social learning approach where substantive and procedural aspects were integrated. He advocated this integrated planning approach, more popularly known as bottom-up planning, on paper and in practice in Latin America as well as Asia.

Outstanding in his contribution to teaching stand his efforts to combine teaching at the ISS in The Hague with collaboration and support to new academic centres abroad. Mention can be made here of Instituto Latinoamericano de Planificación Económico y Social (ILPES), Santiago, Chile, the Centro Interdisciplinario de Estudios Regionales (CIDER), Universidad de los Andes, Colombia, the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand, The University of Zimbabwe, Harare and the Development Studies Research Centre (DSRC) in Khartoum, Sudan.

As a teacher Hilhorst was at his best when challenged or questioned by his students. Former students speak highly of him for the fact that they could always expect careful attention and solid comments.

As a development advisor Jos Hilhorst undertook many assignments particularly in Latin America and later also in Asia and Africa. He was a member of the National Advisory Council for Development Cooperation and served as director of CEBEMO, which later became CORDAID.

At his valedictory in 1996 a Festschrift was prepared in his honour. More than 20 colleagues from all over the world contributed to this volume.

In all, Jos Hilhorst belonged to a special breed of post-World War II Dutch economists who combined teaching, research and advice in a mutually reinforcing manner i.e. a solid academic reputation was built not only on the basis of scientific publications, but also on a career as a teacher and development advisor. Societal and academic relevance were combined in a natural manner and maintained throughout his career.