

**Keilir Conference on Eyjafjallajökull and Aviation**  
**September 15-16, Keflavik Airport, Iceland**  
**Presentation of Conference Chairmen, Panelists and Speakers#**

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**Dr. Haraldur Sigurdsson**

Volcanologist and Professor Emeritus of Oceanography.

Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island, Narragansett, RI, USA and

Eldfjallasafn Íslands - The Volcano Museum, Stykkisholmur, Iceland

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The volcanologist Haraldur Sigurðsson worked in geology and volcanology for over forty years. He is born in Stykkishólmur in 1939. When he worked on exploration drilling as a student he gained an interest in geology. He completed a BSc degree at Queens University in Belfast in 1965, and PhD degree from Durham University in England in 1970. He worked at the University of the West Indies from 1970, conducting research on Caribbean volcanoes.

He was appointed professor at the Graduate School of Oceanography in the University of Rhode Island in 1974. His research has been principally in volcanology, both on land and on the ocean floor. He has worked in Indonesia, Italy, West Indies, USA, West Africa, Greece, South and Central America and elsewhere, as well as on the ocean floor in many regions of earth. In addition to volcano research he has conducted studies on the impact of large meteorites and comets on the earth. His research has been funded by grants from the US National Science Foundation, NASA, National Geographic Society, and NOAA.

Haraldur has published over 160 articles in scientific journals. He has also published two books on volcanology for the general reader: Encyclopedia of Volcanoes (Academic Press) and Melting the Earth (Oxford University Press). Haraldur has received a number of awards, from the Geological Society of America, Iceland Science Society, University of Utrecht, London Geological Society and Order of the Falcon from the President of Iceland.

Haraldur Sigurðsson has collected all of the art and objects exhibited in his private Volcano Museum in Stykkisholmur, Iceland. Haraldur has collected information on the evolution of science with respect to volcano research for many years. A result of that was his book Melting the Earth. He then formed an interest in volcano art, the representation of volcanic eruptions in art. An outcome of that is the collection that is exhibited here in the Volcano Museum, see: [safn@eldfjallasafn.is](mailto:safn@eldfjallasafn.is)

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[http://en.keilir.net/keilir/about\\_keilir/gallery/conference - day 2](http://en.keilir.net/keilir/about_keilir/gallery/conference_day_2)

**Education and Occupations:**

BSc in Geology at Queens University, Belfast, Northern Ireland 1965  
PhD in Geochemistry and Volcanology at Durham University, England 1970.  
Lecturer and Researcher in Volcanology and Seismology, University of the West Indies 1970-1974.  
Professor, Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island, 1974 to 2007.  
Director of the Volcano Museum, Stykkisholmur, Iceland.

**Research experience:**

Over 40 years of research on volcanology and geochemistry in volcanic regions of Indonesia, Central and South America, West Africa, Iceland, Greece, western United States. Principal scientist on numerous oceanographic cruises exploring submarine volcanic regions in the North and South Atlantic, Mediterranean, Pacific and Caribbean seas.

**Publications:**

Author of several books, including *Encyclopedia of Volcanoes*. (Academic Press, 1415 pp, 1999) and *Melting the Earth; The evolution of Ideas about Volcanic Eruptions* (Oxford University Press. 350 pp.)

Haraldur has published about 160 research papers in international scientific journals and many articles in popular publications. He has contributed to several dozen educational and documentary films for television, dealing with volcanism and natural hazards, including work with National Geographic, Discovery Channel, BBC and others. Development of educational web sites in earth science, such as, for example:

<http://www.gso.uri.edu/vesuvius/Home/index.html>

**Awards:**

Recipient of several academic and scientific awards, including the Coke Medal of the Geological Society of the United Kingdom, the Geological Society of America award, the Ása Wright Medal in Iceland, the Vening Meinesz Medal of the Netherlands and the Icelandic Order of the Falcon.

**Eldfjallasafn Íslands - The Volcano Museum concept:**

During his career of over 40 years, Haraldur has amassed a large and unique collection of art, literature, research material and information that relates to volcanoes and volcanic eruptions world-wide. This includes original works of volcanic eruptions by prominent artists, such as Andy Warhol, Siequeiros, Hokusai and others. Haraldur has offered to donate his entire volcano-related collection to Iceland, as a nucleus of a new Volcano Museum. This museum concept is considered as multi-disciplinary, spanning the entire spectrum from art to science, aimed at developing an understanding of the fundamental processes at work in volcanic systems, as well as the impact of volcanic eruptions, the cultural and artistic response to this greatest display of the Earth's inner energy.