

Financial analyst and expert of exploiting frontier area natural resources, Dr Jeffery Roberts

Financial analyst and expert of exploiting frontier area natural resources, Dr Jeffery Roberts died in London 29.1.2010. He was born in Liverpool 30.6.1943.

For the first time Jeffery Roberts came to Finland in 1965 by riding bike from Finnmark Norway to Ivalo. Already by then he became a friend of Finland. At that time he was making his doctoral thesis about the geology of Finnmark.

In 1970's Roberts worked first on North Sea and later as an oil analyst serving North American stockbrokers. On the next decennium he acted as financial analyst following especially German stock market. As the Finnish stock market developed in the end of 1980'es he saw new opportunities here. In 1988 he was appointed as the head of research to Unitas Securities in Finland. After this, he set up Impivaara Securities Ltd. in London in 1991. Impivaara acted as an expert advisor to many global pension funds and institutions regarding investments in Finland. Impivaara Securities' customers were located in U.K., USA, Scotland, Germany, Italy and Norway.

Impivaara was involved with first significant foreign ownership in more than 10 Finnish listed companies. Through his work Roberts was important person making Finland known among financial investors. According to him, the interest of large investors was aimed especially to companies exploiting natural resources and to companies with growth expectations on Russian and former East European markets.

As a geologist and financial analyst he understood the importance of natural resources in Finland and in Barents area, and worked actively to help utilising them. He saw Finland's role in exploiting those natural resources. One of his last projects was to help exploit the Sokli deposits in Savukoski. He actively tried to expedite the construction of Salla railway, which would connect Finnish and Russian railways. He was a welcomed presenter in Finland, Norway and Russia in numerous international seminars regarding exploiting natural resources.

Jeffery Roberts was interested in Finnish culture, language and history. The name of his company, Impivaara Securities, reflects well his knowledge about Finnish culture. In addition to English, German, French, Swedish, Norwegian, Russian, Estonian and Welch, he could also Finnish so well that he could read Finnish books. He followed carefully Finish news and always when he visited Finland he had good and up-to-date information. He had wide contacts to Finnish listed companies and financial sphere. Untill his last weeks he followed actively more than 20 listed Finnish companies As a person he human, warm and interesting friend. He loved his family, which consisted of wife, daughter and son. He was always enthusiastic and interested in the world around and it was a joy to listen as he explained about his activities and trips. People who knew him, remember him as an enthusiastic and multitalented person who got along well with everyone.

Antti Henriksson
Yrjö Myllylä

Writers are Dr Jeffery Roberts' friends and collagues in Finland.