

Lage Knutsson's life's work led to The Swedish Aluminium Award

Lage Knutsson has played a decisive part in showing the environmental advantages of using aluminium. He is also the man who took the initiative to set up Packalu Sverige. Now he's being repaid for his life's work, with the sector's major award – The Swedish Aluminium Award.

Lage Knutsson, now 72, has for a large part of his life worked on research and development within Gränges and Sapa. For many years he was environmental coordinator within Gränges Ecology, and during that period he succeeded in clearly demonstrating the environmental advantages of aluminium, and he made an active contribution to changing public opinion. Until the 1990s it was widely believed that aluminium was a poor choice for the environment due to the energy consumed during production of primary aluminium. Knowledge of the environmental advantages - lightness, recyclability and a long working life - attracted less attention. All this was changed by Lage Knutsson, in dialogue with both environmental organisations and with Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the Ministry of the Environment. In these dialogues he disseminated factual information and also organised a number of courses and conferences so as to increase knowledge of aluminium and the environment.



Lage Knutsson was active for many years on the Ecology Committee of the European aluminium organisation EAA. At a meeting in Brussels in 1998 he was tasked with starting organised work on changing attitudes to aluminium packaging. He invited a number of Swedish suppliers to a meeting and the result was the organisation Packalu Sverige, an important part today of Aluminiumriket Sverige (The Swedish Aluminium Association). Lage Knutsson has also spread knowledge about the environmental properties of aluminium not only throughout Europe, but also in the US, where he has disseminated knowledge of the Swedish model for recycling aluminium cans. His life's work has now been rewarded with the aluminium sector's "Nobel Prize" The Swedish Aluminium Award.

For more information
Håkan Jalling, Aluminiumriket Sverige, telefon 070-660 64 33
www.aluminiumriket.com



The reasons why

"The Board of Aluminiumriket Sverige (The Swedish Aluminium Association) has chosen this year to reward someone's life's work within the world of the environment, both nationally and internationally. Few, if any, within the aluminium sector have worked for the environment so long, so purposefully and with such dedication, and long before environmental matters appeared on the public agenda. With the aid of facts, good instruction and information, it was possible to change the market's attitude to aluminium. Not least within packaging, where this year's award-winner had amongst other things taken the initiative and started up the Packalu Group. The light materials' top award, The Swedish Aluminium Award 2009, goes to Lage Knutsson, Gränges / Sapa."

Aluminiumriket Sverige (The Swedish Aluminium Association)

- is a national interest organisation whose members are companies for which aluminium is a strategic material
- has 100 members with a total of 15,000 employees
- works to develop the use of aluminium out of regard for the benefit of environment and sound finance

www.aluminiumriket.com.