Prize for physicist who urges ethics in science

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

A BRITISH-BORN physicist has won a prestigious £600,000 prize for furthering the understanding of science and religion.

Freeman Dyson, 77, was yesterday awarded the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion as a result of his books on the subject of science, ethics and the future of humankind.

The emeritus professor at Princeton University’s Institute for Advanced Study was cited for being a pre-eminent physicist “whose futurist views consistently challenge humankind to reconcile technology and social justice”. He has been a leading proponent of the idea that scientists should eliminate the wedges that technology drives between the haves and the have-nots.

“Science and religion are two windows that people look through, trying to understand the big universe outside, trying to understand why we are here. The two windows give different views, but both look out at the same universe,” Professor Dyson said yesterday in his acceptance speech in New York.

Born in Crowthorne, Berkshire, Professor Dyson joined the Royal Air Force during the Second World War and in 1958 became a citizen of the United States, where he worked with Edward Teller, the “father” of the hydrogen bomb.

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