In memoriam

Prof. Dr Vassil Vassilev, 1946 - 2009

It is our sad duty in the present issue to announce the sudden and unexpected death of Prof. Dr. Vassil Vassilev. Prof. Vassilev, a member of the Editorial board, passed away on 4th of February 2009.

This heavy loss is not only of a good colleague and a friend, but also of a prominent scolar in the Bulgarian and international field of Cybernetics and Information Science.

Prof. Dr. Vassil Vassilev was born on 11th of November 1946 in the village of Lopjan, Sofia district. He graduated in 1970 from the Wroclaw Polytechnic University, Poland, with a Master degree in Automation. In 1973 Prof. Dr. Vassilev earned a second Master degree in Applied Mathematics at Wroclaw University, Poland, and in 1976 he defended Doctor's Thesis in Operations Research at Wroclaw University, Poland.

During the period 1970-1972, Prof. Dr. Vassil Vassilev worked as a research associate at the Institute of Engineering Cybernetics of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences; then until 1984 at the Institute of Engineering Cybernetics and Robotics of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IECR – BAS). In 1985, he raised to the post of an Associate Professor at IECR - BAS. Later on, until 1993, he was an Associate Professor at the Institute of Informatics of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Since 1994, Prof. Dr. Vassil Vassilev was the head of the Decision Support Systems department as well as the Director of the Institute of Information Technologies (IIT - BAS). In 2006, he earned a full Professorhip position at IIT-BAS.

Prof. Dr Vassil Vassilev is one of the founders of Engineering Cybernetics and Operations Research in Bulgaria. He conducted rigorous research in the areas of descrete optimization, linear and non-linear continuous optimization, as well as in in the development of decision support systems. The research work resulted in the development of efficient approximate methods algorithms and programs for solving certain classes of discrete problems. This software delivered great practical results and economic value. Prof. Dr Vassil Vassilev was a prominent participant in the development of the software for the first Bulgarian automatic control systems.

For more than 25 years of research activity, Prof. Dr Vassil Vassilev was devoted to his work in the area of Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM). His research and tutorial work at IIT-BAS and some of the biggest universities in Bulgaria has created a scientific school, that has conducted intensive scientific research in the area of MCDM. His team had achieved notable results in linear, nonlinear and discrete Multiple Criteria Decision Making. His unremitting work, the legacy of his teaching, as well as the application of new methods of classification and of the generalized scalarizing problem, earned him international acknowledgement and respect.

Prof. Dr Vassil Vassilev actively participated in international and local conferences and editorial boards. He also taught a number of lecture courses at the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", the New Bulgarian University, the Technical University – Sofia, and the Bourgas Free University. He successfully tutored 9 Ph D students as well as 35 post-graduate students. The professional success of his students is also a testament what an outstanding teacher Prof. Dr. Vassil Vassilev was.

Prof. Dr. Vassil Vassilev authored more than 180 articles in international and Bulgarian journals and in the proceedings of international and local conferences, 4 patents and more than 200 quotations in international publications.

Prof. Dr Vassil Vassilev was the founding force behind the creation of the journal "Cybernetics and Information Technologies" and proved to be the most active member of its Editorial Board.

Our departed colleague Prof. Dr. Vassil Vassilev, with his devoted work and profound scientific knowledge, developed IIT - BAS to a nationally and internationally recognized institution in the field of Information Technologies. He will be remembered as a kind, gentle and generous person, an inspirational leader, a respected colleague and a reliable friend. He will be greatly missed by all of us, who were fortunate enough to have worked with and known him.

His untimely death leaves us with a large profound space.

The Editorial Board