

Professor TUGOMIR ŠURINA, Ph.D. – 80th Anniversary

Tugomir Šurina was born in Celje (Slovenia) in 1924. In 1952 he graduated at the Technical Faculty, University of Zagreb, Department of Electronics, and in 1981 acquired Ph D from Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Belgrade. Within 1953 to 1965 he was working at the RIZ Factory, initially as a research engineer and afterwards as manager to the Institute, then as technical manager and finally as general manager. In the meantime within 1957 to 1959 he was engaged at *Grundig* (Germany) and in 1962 at the Princeton Computation Centre (USA).

During his engagement in industry he was recognised as a creator of several pioneering technical projects and in the RIZ a project of a wireless teletype link system for the former news agency TANJUG. At *Grundig* he designed three transistor radios of which *Micro-Boy* was a bestseller, at that time a thoroughly new technique in Europe.

In 1966 he was elected assistant professor at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, University of Zagreb. In 1971 he advanced to associate professor and since 1981 until his retirement he pursued his activities as full professor. In 1997 professor Šurina was awarded honorary title *Professor Emeritus* by the University of Zagreb.

As a researcher and manager at RIZ and afterwards during his engagements abroad he became aware of the coming new trends in industry – from the control techniques to computer and information techniques. His visionary concept was reflected in his subsequent activities at the Faculty and presents his major contribution to the modernisation of studies in general.

Professor Šurina introduced new lectures in teaching, such as: Control Engineering, Industrial Robotics and Computer Aided Conduction. He established postgraduate studies attended by nearly 250 students in the coming years.

Moreover, among his achievement was also the establishment of a Department for Robotics and Automation of Production Systems with the corresponding laboratories.

Professor Šurina has issued 129 scientific and professional papers and held 55 public lectures. In his scientific works he has applied the methods and system approach from the theory of electricity to mechanical engineering.

Professor Šurina was equally active beyond the academic field. He led annual conferences of the KoREMA Society (1966–1974) and biennial conferences BIAM (1971–1996), he chaired the KoREMA Society (1991–1996). Apart from these activities he has organised and conducted numerous conferences and seminars in cooperation with the industry.

In recognition of his work professor Šurina has been honoured many times. Primarily, in 1973 he received the highest award for science »Nikola Tesla« of the Republic, in 1989 Life Achievement Award, and from the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts an Award for Scientific Contribution in 1995.

Being a true intellectual and polyglot, dynamic and outgoing, he has widely travelled, made many an acquaintance and contact with the eminent scientists and become a man of the world.

Professor Božo VRANJEŠ, Ph.D.