

Yuri Gerasimov (1946–2013)



Yuri Gerasimov was born on the 8th August 1964 and passed away on a business trip in Germany on the 30th September 2013.

Yuri graduated in 1986 from the Forest Engineering Faculty of the Petrozavodsk State University. Then he worked as a researcher and did his post graduate and doctorate studies in the Leningrad Forest Engineering Academy.

In 1995 he was awarded the doctor of science degree by the St. Petersburg Forest Engineering Academy. He served then the Petrozavodsk State University 1995 – 2000, first as a teacher, then as an associate professor and finally as a professor of forest technology. During that time, he also participated in cooperation and staff exchange between the Petrozavodsk State University and the University of Joensuu in Finland. Yuri moved to the Stora Enso company in 2000, first as the Head of the Representative Office in Petrozavodsk, and later as the Business Planning Manager in the St. Petersburg office.

In April 2004, Yuri moved to Joensuu in Finland and back to research. He started at the Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla) first as a project researcher in Russian forestry related R&D projects. His task was to develop methods and tools for the analysis of different forest management practices, harvesting technologies, and wood procurement methods for the conditions in Northwest Russia. In late 2009, Yuri was elected for a permanent position in Metla as a senior researcher.

As a senior researcher, Yuri continued dealing the above themes, but also including forestry in Central and Eastern European countries. Based on his excellent and diverse contacts research cooperation strengthened not only with the Petrozavodsk State University, but also with many other partners. Metla's register on performance reflects his dedication to research: on top of about 150 publications, tens of presentations in conferences and workshops. Last years were productive. Few articles are still in the peer review process, and several articles were in the planning phase. Yuri was supposed to present results of one of the most recent article in Stralsund, Germany, at the 46th International Symposium on Forestry Mechanisation, but he passed away just a few hours earlier.

Yuri was a member of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, member of the Scientific Council evaluating PhD and DSc thesis in the Petrozavodsk State University, editor in chief of the refereed journal Resources and Technology. He was also docent at the University of Eastern Finland, the School of Forest Sciences.

*With respect,
Timo Karjalainen
Professor, Finnish Forest Research Institute*