

In memoriam

Professor Ivan Esih

(28th June 1929 – 16th December 2015)



Dear colleagues,

Our dear and esteemed teacher and friend, professor dr. sc. Ivan Esih, left us at the age of 87. He spent most of his working career at the University and instructed many generations of students and teachers.

Professor Ivan Esih was born in Zagreb on 28 June 1929. He graduated in Chemical Engineering in 1954 and he attained his PhD in Chemistry at the University in Zagreb in 1970 with a dissertation entitled: “Study of Atmospheric Corrosion Mechanisms on Iron and Carbon Steel”. After six years of practice in chemical engineering and coating technology, he joined the Technical College at the University of Zagreb in 1961, where he founded the Laboratory of Materials Protection and Chair of Materials Protection. For the first time in former Yugoslavia, he introduced the course in surface protection in the higher education curriculum. He was teacher and professor of General and Physical Chemistry, of Corrosion and Corrosion Protection and of Surface Engineering. He served twice as a vice dean, the first time as vice dean of the Technical College (1966-1967), and after that as vice dean of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture (1972-1976) of the University of Zagreb. As author he published 3 university textbooks, 3 chapters in books, 7 handouts and 3 handbooks for engineers. He mentored about 150 graduate and undergraduate thesis, 28 MSc degree thesis and 6 PhD degree thesis. He published over 140 scientific and professional papers in journals and proceedings. Although he retired in 1999, he remained active, in scientific and professional terms, both within and outside the Faculty.

For his exceptional work he received plenty recognitions, honours and awards, among which are the Order of Labour with Silver Wreath (1971), the Great FMENA Medal (1976), and the Plaque of the Yugoslav Federation of Engineers and Technicians.

Professor Esih left a deep mark among the academic and business community, especially in the field of corrosion protection. He was one of the founders of the Croatian Society for Materials Protection. From 1961 to 1982 he was Secretary of the Croatian Society for Materials Protection and then from 1982 to 2003 its President. From 1989 to 1991 he was Chairman of the Union of Engineers and Technicians for Materials Protection in former Yugoslavia. He worked together with researchers from around the world, while his work was

recognised and highly valued by the entire corrosion community. Since 1984 he was a member of the International Corrosion Council, and from 1995 to 2004 he represented the Croatian Society for Materials Protection in the European Federation of Corrosion. From 1972 to 2014 he organised 22 Conferences of Materials Protection and Industrial Finish „KORMAT“.

Professor Ivan Esih was an outstanding chemical engineer, researcher, expert and polyglot, and his knowledge and experience was a valuable resource for the engineering community in Croatia and abroad. In his teaching, scientific and professional work and his engagement in general, he distinguished himself by perseverance and integrity, an extremely fair and kind relationship to students, collaborators and co-workers, for whom he always had time.

Since his retirement, for fifteen years, he remained involved with the Laboratory of Materials Protection and the Croatian Society for Materials Protection. He was our guide and mentor.

Croatia, the University of Zagreb, the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture and the Croatian Society for Materials Protection have lost a great man.

He will dwell forever in our hearts as our highly esteemed professor and teacher.

Croatian Society for Materials Protection