

Prof. DSc Dipl. Eng. Nikola Georgiev



On 10.08.2009 the outstanding Bulgarian scientist Prof. Nikola Georgiev, DSc, passed away at the age of 75.

Prof. Georgiev was a widely recognized geodesy expert. He graduated from the Higher Institute of Architecture and Construction. He started his scientific and pedagogical career at the Higher People's Military Artillery School, Town of Shoumen, where he lectured in Mathematical Geodesy and Cartography, Geodetic Astronomy, and Physical Geodesy. During this period he became post-graduate student of the prominent Bulgarian scientist-geodesist, Acad. Vl. Hristov, and in 1967 presented successfully his PhD Thesis on the topic *The Direct and Reverse Geodetic Problem for Great Distances* which

was published as a monograph in 1967.

In 1965, Prof. N. Georgiev joined the Central Laboratory for Higher Geodesy (CLHG) at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS) as a Research Fellow. Here, he focused his scientific activity and interests in the field of Space Geodesy, a new and prospective scientific field at that time. In recognition for his successful results, during 1975-1977, he was invited to work for the Council of Astronomy of the Russian Academy of Sciences, where he developed analytical theory for high-precision determination of Earth satellite orbits and their use for the purposes of space geodesy. In 1978, he presented his Doctorial Thesis at the *A. Sterberg* State Institute of Astronomy of the *M. Lomonossov* State University of Moscow on the topic *A Satellite Geodesy Orbital Method for Short Time Intervals* to acquire the title Doctor of Physico-Mathematical Sciences. The major results of this thesis were published in the joint Bulgarian-Russian monograph *Using Earth Satellite Optic Observations for Geodetic Purposes* which was published in 1979 and later on gained great popularity.

Upon his return to Bulgaria in 1977, N. Georgiev was appointed Director of the CLHG-BAS. Here, he organized a large team of researchers and professionals, which developed successfully various aspects of the analytical theory for determination of satellite orbits, with particular emphasis on its application for the purposes of global geodynamics. Under his supervision, the CLHG continued its

scientific research work in both the traditional fields of higher geodesy, as well as in some new areas. In his capacity of Director of the CLHG, Prof. N. Georgiev paid particular attention to the young researchers assisting their scientific and creative development.

From 1990 to 2007, Prof. Georgiev worked for the SRI–BAS where he focused his efforts on the methods for georeference, rectification, and interpretation of high-resolution space images; space methods for study of regional and global geodynamics; analysis of remote-sensing and ground-based studies of the neotectonics and geodynamics of the Moesian platform. During this period, he was also Chairman of the General Assembly of Scientists.

The career of Prof. N. Georgiev was marked not only by his prolific scientific activity, but also by his pedagogical practice. He lectured at the Higher Institute of Architecture and Construction, the *Gen. Blagoy Ivanov* Higher People's Military Construction School, the Higher People's Military Artillery School, the University of Shoumen and more.

The results of the long-lasting and scientific and organizational activity of Prof. N. Georgiev resulted in his wide international recognition. He was member of international and overseas organizations, his name is inscribed on a number of home and foreign encyclopedias, he was elected member of a number of foreign Academies of Science on account of his academic achievements, he was also leader of international projects and programs. Some of the prestigious positions held by Prof. Georgiev are: National Coordinator and active participant in influential overseas organizations, such as: INTERCOSMOS, KAPG, COSPAR, MAG, MCFT; Scientific Secretary of the Dedicated Scientific Council in Geodesy and Geophysics; member of the Scientific Council in Geophysics at the Higher Attesting Committee; Vice-Chairman of the Dedicated Scientific Council in Geodesy at the Higher Attesting Committee. His versatile and rewarding activity was honoured by the awarded Order of Cyril and Methodius, I class, Golden Order of Labour, Badge of Excellent Worker of the BAS etc.