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FIFTY YEARS OF RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES OF PROFESSOR EUGENIUSZ RATAJCZYK

This year professor Eugeniusz Ratajczyk celebrates the 50th anniversary of his work at Warsaw University of Technology and his 75th birthday. On this occasion an Anniversary Seminar was organized at the Faculty of Mechatronics, 20th June 2008. Eminent university authorities, members of Faculty Council and many notable guests from academic and research centres participated in the Seminar. The speakers from the Faculty and invited guests from other establishments referred to professor Ratajczyk's outstanding achievements in science, teaching and administration. His Magnificence, Rector of Warsaw University of Technology, professor Włodzimierz Kurnik, awarded professor Ratajczyk with the Badge of Merits in the Development of Warsaw University of Technology.

Professor Ratajczyk began his close and long ties with Warsaw University of Technology in 1952, when he started studies at the Mechanical Engineering Faculty (Wydział Mechaniczny-Technologiczny). In 1957 he received his M.Sc. degree and was offered the position of assistant in the Department of Engineering Metrology.

In his PhD Thesis (1965, Faculty of Fine Mechanics) he developed the theory of transducers used in *mikrokators* – mechanical dial length indicators invented by a Swedish engineer H. Abramson for measurement a relative distance with a high accuracy. The thesis and further professor Ratajczyk's investigations contributed to the construction of the first Polish *mikrokators*. Several thousands of those low cost, frictionless and free from backlash gauges were produced to meet the needs of electronic and bearing industries. Further investigation work carried out from 1970 to 1978 by a group of engineers under Professor Ratajczyk's leadership brought about the development of a wide range of models of gauges called *metrotests*, which were manufactured by Kombinat Przemysłu Narzędziowego VIS (Tool Industry Combine VIS) in Warsaw.

Professor Ratajczyk got the academic title of professor in 1986 and in 1994 he was appointed to the post of full professor at Warsaw University of Technology.



Fig. 1. Professor Ratajczyk speaking during the Anniversary Seminar. Sitting (from the left): Dean of Faculty of Mechatronics – prof. Krzysztof Lewenstein, Rector of Warsaw University of Technology – prof. Włodzimierz Kurnik.

At the beginning of the 80's his research interests have been focused on the coordinate measuring technique. He led a number of research projects on this subject, sponsored by the State Committee for Scientific Research. The years of experience in coordinate technique resulted in many publications that appeared in Polish and foreign journals. Among them, the priority should be given to the book *Współrzędnościowa technika pomiarowa* (1994, 2005) – the most often quoted bibliographic source in Polish language in this field.

The results of Professor Ratajczyk's interests and investigations conducted jointly with members of his team were presented at various congresses, conferences, symposia, seminars and other meetings. Many of such meetings were organized or co-organized by Professor Ratajczyk. He is an initiator of national symposiums on coordinate technique which developed into an important international conference *Coordinate Measuring Technique*, held every second year in Bielsko-Biała. From the very beginning Professor Ratajczyk was appointed the Chairman of successive sessions. He is also a person of merit as an animator and chairman of cyclic national conferences *Metrologia w technikach wytwarzania maszyn* (*Metrology in production engineering*) organized under the patronage of the Committee on Metrology and Scientific Instrumentation and the Committee of Machine Design of the Polish Academy of Science.

Professor Eugeniusz Ratajczyk has been involved to the activities of Committee on Metrology and Scientific Instrumentation since 1976. In the period 2003-2007 he was Chairman of the Committee and previously he was vice-chairman or scientific secretary for many years. Among Professor Ratajczyk's achievements, special mention should be made of his contribution in two voluminous expert opinions on the state of metrology in Poland (1979 and 1984), which brought about the development of dome-

stic production of measuring instruments and improvement of laboratory equipment. Recently Professor Ratajczyk was nominated Honorary Chairman of the Committee.



Fig. 2. Anniversary Seminar audience in Faculty of Mechatronics, 20th June, 2008.

Professor Eugeniusz Ratajczyk contributed to the establishment of Metrology and Measurement Systems quarterly and for almost twenty years he has been holding the position of the Vice-Editor. He is also a long-term and dedicated editor at the monthly magazine “Mechanik”, where he cares for the metrology domain continuously from 1971.

Professor Ratajczyk is highly appreciated as a gifted teacher, research worker and unusually efficient chief organizer. He was the Dean of Mechatronics Faculty for three terms of office and he made an outstanding contribution to the Faculty development. For many years he held the post of Head of Department of Metrology and Quality Engineering, Institute of Metrology and Measurement Systems, where on numerous occasions he marked his professional skills. His well prepared lectures, interesting and extremely rich with multimedia presentations, attract a lot of students.

Professor Ratajczyk held many other key and honourable posts including Member of Consultation Board at the Central Office of Measures and Member of the Council for Science at the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

Results of Professor Ratajczyk’s studies was published in numerous publications: he wrote over 200 papers, handbooks, articles and notes. His scientific achievements also include various reviews and numerous projects. He supervised 11 doctoral dissertations (five awarded), while he is currently supervising additional doctoral candidates.

In recognition of his prominent achievements in research, teaching and organization areas Professor Eugeniusz Ratajczyk was awarded a number of prizes and distinctions including a Medal of the Committee of National Education, Officer’s Cross of the Order

of Polonia Restituta, Gold Honorary Decoration of the National Technical Society, Gold Honorary Decoration of the Polish Society of Mechanical Engineers and Technicians, eight Minister Prizes and nine Rector Prizes.



Fig. 3. Professor Jerzy Barzykowski congratulating to Jubilate during informal part of Anniversary Seminar in Club "Mechanik" at Faculty of Mechatronics.

Professor Eugeniusz Ratajczyk's achievements are beyond measure. He is still active in all the fields described above. We wish him preservation of his excellent condition, every success and all the prosperity for many years to come.