

PROFESSOR WOJCIECH WŁODARCZYK AT HIS 80

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In September, 2010 we celebrate the 80th birthday of Professor Wojciech Włodarczyk, a recognized expert in several fields of civil engineering, specifically the following:

- Durability and safety of buildings and engineering steelwork at various stages of construction and service, particularly steel chimneys as subject to corrosion and vortex shedding.

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- Corrosion of carbon and carbon-manganese, low-alloy and low-alloy weathering steel grades, rational utilization of steel grades for buildings, construction industry and technological fittings in the refining and petrochemical industries.

- Dynamics of foundations for vibrating machines and building floors for oscillations generating equipment.

- Active and passive methods of vibroisolation, evaluation of dynamic effect hazards, including paraseismic ones, transmitted to buildings and civil engineering structures.

Wojciech Włodarczyk was born on 20th September, 1930 in Pruszków. In 1951 he completed his education in the High School of Building Industry in Warsaw, and in 1956 was graduated from the Faculty of Civil Engineering of Warsaw University of Technology, with the Master Degree in Civil Engineering, with the specialization of building and civil engineering structures. He started to work in building industry when he was a student at the High School of Building Industry, and at the same time working occasionally for the Rural Engineering Design Office. During his study at Warsaw University of Technology he was employed by companies involved in construction and preliminary planning, initially as a technician (foreman), and later as a site engineer assistant. Upon obtaining his engineer degree he was employed for five years at the Glass Industry Design Office in Warsaw, at the beginning as a designer responsible for structural engineering projects, later holding a senior position with this regard. It was during this period that he acquired state qualification for independent design and site management building works (professional status of an engineer). He completed and supervised a number of design projects of various structures, including industrial sheds, warehouses, tanks, chimneys and foundations for machines.

While involved in design work, he had already initiated his part-time teaching and research activities at the Warsaw University of Technology. At first he was a researcher and teaching assistant in the Department of Industrial Building, next working for the Department of Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering. Since 1970 he has begun to specialize in steelwork design, construction and assessment of existing structures. He went through all the stages of university career, from a researcher and teaching assistant to professor ordinaries, holding the positions of Faculty Dean and Vice-Rector of this largest technological university in Poland.

Wojciech Włodarczyk was obtained his doctoral degree in technical sciences in 1968 on the basis of his dissertation on the dynamics of machine foundations in industrial buildings. In 1973 he moved to the Warsaw University of Technology off-campus unit in Płock – the centre of the national refining and petrochemical industries. In 1990 the President of the Republic of Poland granted him the title of professor in technical sciences. Professor Wojciech Włodarczyk was a supervisor of six doctoral theses and has educated the whole generation of engineers, more than thirty of whom received awards for their diploma work at both undergraduate and graduate levels, most of them in the prestigious national competition of the Minister of Infrastructure, previously the Minister of Building Industry, organized for the last 40 years.

Professor Włodarczyk has carried out a whole range of scientific and technical works and prepared a number of publications, among which he was the author or co-author of 22 books (monographs, textbooks and design manuals), over 130 articles for national and international scientific journals and technical magazines, and finally 64 papers presented at conferences in Poland and abroad, and published in the conference proceedings. He is often reviews for various publishing houses and journals scientific and technical books and presents the reviews to their readers. As a result, he has presented more than 120 published reviews of scientific and technical books related to the profession of building and civil engineering. Moreover, he has acted as a reviewer of fifteen doctoral theses, nine postdoctoral dissertations, and for a dozen or so applications for professorial titles.

Professor Włodarczyk is a licensed construction engineering expert and as such he has prepared over three hundred and fifty technical expertises. He is still active in this field, assisting and supervising design and construction works, takes part in the activities of professional organizations like the Metal Structures Division of the Civil and Hydraulic Engineering Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences, of which he was four times a Secretary, and the Polish Association of Building Engineers and Technicians, of which he was for nine years a member of the Scientific-Technical Council of the Team of Experts. The list of other functions he has fulfilled in professional central bodies and other associations is too long to be recalled herein in full.

It is obvious that such an active person has been nominated to many distinctions. Professor Wojciech Włodarczyk has been honoured with state medals, receiving one of the highest Polish orders – the Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta. He was granted the Medal of the Commission of National Education and several other distinctions of a lesser rank. According to him, among many regional and association distinctions he has received, the Professor Stefan Kaufman Medal is the one he values at the utmost, the medal established in 1996 to honour the memory of the outstanding Polish researcher and expert. He has also been granted the Badge of Merit of the City of Płock for an undisputable dedication in his work for the city and the province.

Thanks to Professor Wojciech Włodarczyk, the combination of great knowledge and his openness to others, he deserves respect and friendship of lots of people. He possesses absolutely all the qualities of “a good man” meaning that he is always fair and objective in his opinions about other people and their achievements, showing kindness to people he cooperates with, and readiness to offer them help as much as he can, especially to young people, emphasizing in full their good traits. In personal contacts he has always been very modest and a person never seeking publicity or honours. Those who had a chance to cooperate with Professor Włodarczyk, or those whom he considers his friends, should consider themselves as very lucky.

On behalf of the Metal Structures Division of the Civil and Hydraulic Engineering Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences, together with other building industry and university circles, let the undersigned express a great pleasure in wishing Professor Wojciech Włodarczyk many more years of good health and a lot of satisfaction with his achievements in professional activities, so valued and needed for all of us.