

## *In Memoriam*

**of Prof. Dr Vassil Vassilev, 1946-2009**



It is our sad duty in the present issue of our journal to announce the sudden and unexpected death of Prof. Dr Vassil Vassilev. Prof. Vassilev, a member of the Editorial board, passed away on 4th of February 2009.

This heavy loss is not only of a good colleague and a friend, but also of a prominent scholar in Bulgarian and international field of Cybernetics and Information Science.

Prof. Dr Vassil Vassilev was born on 11th of November, 1946 in the village of Lopjan, Sofia district. He graduated in 1970 at Wroclaw Polytechnic University, Poland, with a Master degree in Automation. In 1973 Vassil Vassilev earned a second Master degree in Applied Mathematics at Wroclaw University, Poland, and in 1976 he defended Doctor's Thesis in Operations Research at Wroclaw University.

During the period 1970-1972 Prof. Dr Vassil Vassilev worked as a research associate at the Institute of Engineering Cybernetics of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS), then until 1984 – at the Institute of Engineering Cybernetics and Robotics (IECR-BAS). In 1985 he raised to the post of an Associate Professor at IECR-BAS. Later on, until 1993, he was an Associate Professor at the Institute of Informatics of BAS.

Since 1994 Prof. Dr. Vassil Vassilev was the head of the Decision Support Systems department, as well as the Director of the Institute of Information Technologies (IIT-BAS). In 2006 he earned a full Professorship position at IIT-BAS.

Prof. Dr Vassil Vassilev is one of the founders of Engineering Cybernetics and Operations Research in Bulgaria. He conducted rigorous research in the areas of discrete optimization, linear and nonlinear continuous optimization, as well as in the development of decision support systems. The research work resulted in the development of efficient approximate methods – algorithms and programs for solving certain classes of discrete problems. This software delivered great practical results and economic value. Prof. Dr Vassil Vassilev was a prominent participant in the development of the software for the first Bulgarian automatic control systems.

For more than 25 years of research activity Prof. Dr Vassil Vassilev was devoted to his work in the area of Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM). His research and tutorial work at IIT-BAS and at some of the biggest universities in Bulgaria has created a scientific school, that has conducted intensive research in the area of MCDM. His team has achieved notable results in linear, nonlinear and discrete Multiple Criteria Decision Making. His unremitting work, the legacy of his teaching, as well as the application of new methods of classification and of the generalized scalarizing problem, earned him international acknowledgement and respect

Prof. Dr Vassil Vassilev actively participated in international and local conferences and editorial boards. He also taught a number of lecture courses at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, New Bulgarian University, Technical University, Sofia and Bourgas Free University. He successfully tutored nine Ph D students, as well as 35 post-graduate students. The professional success of his students is also a testament what an outstanding teacher Prof. Vassil Vassilev was.

Prof. Dr Vassil Vassilev authored more than 180 articles in international and Bulgarian journals and in the proceedings of international and local conferences, four patents and more than 200 quotations in international publications.

He was the founding force behind the creation of the journal “Cybernetics and Information Technologies” and proved to be the most active member of its Editorial Board.

Our departed colleague Prof Dr Vassil Vassilev, with his devoted work and profound scientific knowledge, developed IIT-BAS to a nationally and internationally recognized institution in the field of Information Technologies. He will be remembered as a kind, gentle and generous person, an inspirational leader, a respected colleague and a reliable friend.

Prof. Vassil Vassilev will be greatly missed by all of us, who were fortunate enough to have worked with and known him. His untimely death leaves us with a large empty space.

*The Editorial Board*