ANNIVERSARIES

Professor Vendelín Macho Seventy Years Old

Professor Ing. *Vendelín Macho*, DrSc. was born on October 20, 1931 in Kamenec pod Vtáčnikom in district Prievidza (central Slovakia). He finished the grammar school in 1951 with the best degree. In 1956 he successfully finished his studies at the Faculty of Chemical Technology of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava in the field of high-molecular plastic compounds. He started his professional career at the Research Institute of Petrochemistry in Nováky. In 1958 he began his external PhD. study in the field of organic chemistry under supervision of a famous Slovak chemist Professor *Miloš Marko*. He defended his PhD. thesis in 1961. In that time he was author of several important papers and patents mainly in the field of organic technology and petrochemistry. It was not surprising that in 1968 he defended his DrSc. thesis "Hydroformylation of unsaturated compounds" at the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Prague. He became the youngest Doctor of Science in the former Czechoslovakia.

One year later he became the director of the Research Institute of Petrochemistry. He focused his interest on technology of production of PVC and vinyl chloride copolymers, research of polycondensation, especially polyesterification. His name is tied with new types of PVC suspensions produced at the Nováky Chemical Works, such as several kinds of Slovinyl, copolymer VC/VAC, VC/propylene, and also polymeric initiators. He was also involved in technological research and production preparation of several organic products and semiproducts. His initiative was specially acknowledged at successful continual production of pentaerythritol and calcium formate in the plant Chemko Strážske, at production of nonsaturated polyester resins in the Žilina Chemical Works and Chemolak Smolenice including a successful sale of licence of know-how abroad.

Professor Macho was very successful in solving technological problems in existing productions, mainly in the Slovak chemical industry. He supervised several expert teams, for example at solving technological accident of acetaldehyde production in Duslo Šaľa, at DMT production and also at increasing life expectancy of catalyst for ethylene oxide production in Slovnaft Bratislava. The capacity of the Research Institute of Petrochemistry in Nováky was significantly increased taking over the facilities in Prievidza under supervision of Professor Macho. Between 1984 and 1998 Professor Macho was working at the Faculty of Chemical Technology of the Slovak University of Technology in the field of organic technology and petrochemistry. In 1998 he continued his activities at the University of Trenčín. Now he is the head of the Department of Chemistry and Technology of Polymers and Textile.

Results of his working activities are amazing. He brought up 15 scientists. Now he is advising 4 PhD. students. He is an author or coauthor of 483 inventions (473 were accepted as patents – many of them abroad). He published 207 scientific papers and 83 papers, two monographic publications, and several books for students. He presented 272 lectures and posters. He was coauthor of 137 scientific reports. His papers and patents have a significant positive response abroad. 72 of his inventions were applied and several of his licences were marketed. He was awarded the State Premium (1974), Golden Inventor Sign (1978), National Prize (1986), Prize of the State Committee for Scientific Development (1986), Prize of Association of Inventors of the Slovak Republic (1996). He became a "Scientist of the Year 2000". In 2001 he was awarded the Honourable Acknowledgement for Extraordinary Technical Solution.

Professor Macho has a lot of friends abroad. He was more than 4 years a member of the Committee for Chemistry and Industry of International Union for Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC). He was a member of the Steering Committee of the Slovak Chemical Society. Now he is a president of the Section for Chemical Technology of the Slovak Society of Industrial Chemistry.

Professor Macho is an excellent example of a creative scientist, inventor, teacher. He is involved in bringing up his coworkers and students. He is encouraged not only by his success, but also by the success of his coworkers, especially the young ones. Therefore it is not surprising that there are many people wishing him good health, creative energy, and still long years of happiness and satisfaction from his work and work of his close colleagues, PhD. students, and other scientists working at research institutes at home or abroad and also researchers from industry he is still in very close contact with.

Specially his very close colleagues wish him many years of creative work, good health, and feeling happiness also from the success of his coworkers and friends.

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