

LAUDATION IN HONOUR OF PROFESSOR DR. FRANC VODOPIVEC ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 75th BIRTHDAY

Professor Dr. Franc Vodopivec, scientific councillor and former director of Institute of Metals and Technology and former member of the State Council of Republic Slovenia, is celebrating his 75th birthday. This birthday is the occasion to look at the background and the development of this well known scientist and at the influence which his research work has in the field of elaboration, transformation and use of metals and alloys in Slovenia and abroad.

Professor Franc Vodopivec was born in Rakitnik, on 8th October 1931. After finishing with distinction the secondary school education, he studied Metallurgy at the University of Ljubljana. In 1956 he joined Metallurgical Institute, present Institute of Metals and Technology in Ljubljana directed by founder Professor Ciril Rekar. In 1959 he received through the International Agency of Atomic Energy in Vienna a scholarship from the French Government. Working in the Institute de Recherché de la Siderurgie, in St.Germain en Laye, France from 1960 to 1962 he prepared his doctor thesis and graduated in 1962 at the University of Paris, Paris, France with the thesis *Study of the behaviour of arsenic and phosphorous by selective oxidation of iron alloys with low contents of both elements*.

He returned in 1962 to the Metallurgical Institute and founded the Laboratory for Metalography, 1972 he became head of Technology Department to 1978, assistant director to 1990 and director from 1990 to April 1996 when he retired. In 1992, Professor Vodopivec was elected for the first time in the Council State of Republic Slovenia by the community of researchers and engineers and in 1997 for the second time.

He is editor in chief of Slovenian scientific journal *Metals Alloys Technologies* since 1996.

Professor Vodopivec is full of development spirit and creative ideas. He has been doing research work on the behaviour of metals in oxidative atmosphere, microstructure characterization of metals by optical and electron microscopy, electron probe analysis, mechanical testing; behaviour of material in use at medium and high temperature, hot and cold working of metals, recovery, recrystallization and grain growth. His present research interest include: ductile permanent magnet alloys, non oriented electrical steel sheets, grain growth induced by selective surface segregation, topology of microstructure and behaviour of metals in use.

Professor Vodopivec has published over 250 papers in international journals and conferences and 320 papers in Slovenian journals and conferences on topics of science, technology and use of metals and alloys.

Professor Vodopivec has been supervisor to several Ph.D. and Master Degree students at the Universities of Ljubljana, Maribor, Belgrade and Zagreb. He is also very active in the international academic field. He was a chairman of international scientific conferences and project evaluator in EU actions of COST.

He is still president of Slovenian Society of Materials, member of executive council of Slovenian Vacuum Society, member of Slovenian Electron and Microelectronics Society, Slovenian Society of Chemistry, Historical Society of Ljubljana, chairman of the R&D group of the Slovenian Association of Engineers, chairman of annual Conferences on Materials and Technologies from 1990 to 1996 and was member of Vacuum Metallurgy scientific division of International Union for Vacuum Science, Technique and Applications – IUVSTA from 1992–1995. He is one of the founders of Slovenian Academy of Engineering Sciences. He wrote in Slovenian newspapers several tens of articles of industrial and research policy. In 1978 he received the Boris Kidrič Foundation Award and in 1984 the Boris Kidrič Award for science.

His many projects were supported by 21 industrial societies and associations in Slovenia and the former Yugoslavia from Metallurgy over mechanical energy to power stations as well as the Slovenian and the Yugoslav governments. He was involved also in the projects of international cooperations EU RD actions and USA-Slovenia projects.

He prepared forensic analysis of several industrial failures which qualified Slovenian societies to win arbitration for retributions of damages from foreign companies suppliers of industrial equipment.

In 2004 he received state award – Zois award for his life work from the Republic of Slovenia.

His colleagues hope very much that he will instead of his retirement, take part in discussions, lectures and publications. Most of all we would like to wish him and his family many years to come in good health.

Monika Jenko