

In memory of Associated Prof. RNDr. Milan Hvoždara, DrSc.



On December 15th, 2012, our beloved colleague Associated Prof. Milan Hvoždara, DrSc. has departed from among us in the age of 70. He is missed also as the beloved husband, father and a friend to many. In his last years Milan Hvoždara was struggling with an unforgiving disease. Even under such struggle and suffering he retained his great passion for love and life. We remember his strong and good will in fighting the illness. We nowadays recall how he kept his wonderful sense of humor and stayed cheerful. We

remember how he challenged himself even in his last weeks and encouraged us to live full life, to aim for knowledge, and to live to love others.

Milan was born on October 10, 1942 in the town of Stará Turá. After graduating from the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of the Charles University in Prague in 1965, he started working at the Geophysical Institute (GI) of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS), where he had occupied various positions. He had completed his external research fellowship at the Geophysical Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Prague in 1969. He had been awarded the scientific degree DrSc. at the GI SAS in 1989, and the Associate Professor at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of the Comenius University in Bratislava in 1995.

We have lost an outstanding man who during his whole life shared knowledge, hope and optimism, and who was a great support for us. We have lost one of the important scientific personalities. He was, and henceforth remains, one of the founders of the Slovak geophysics. He was well-educated in many physical and geophysical sciences. He created and taught his own school in solving mathematical problems for geo-electromagnetic fields in inhomogeneous environments by modeling the conductivity inhomogeneities

of the Earth. He contributed significantly to the theory of electromagnetic induction for a spherical multilayer Earth, taking into account its rotation in inhomogeneous harmonic or aperiodic excitation fields. He also derived equations and wrote software for the electromagnetic induction in a layered earth with 3D anomalous bodies using the method of vector integral equations with a weak singular tensor kernel. In stationary geoelectric fields he is an internationally recognized author of original solutions by the method of boundary integral equations with complicated Green kernels. He authored sophisticated numerical routines for all of his theoretical procedures, several of them being used at domestic as well as foreign partner institutes. He also contributed into theoretical and numerical developments in gravimetry, geothermics, and thermoelectric processes in the lithosphere. Between 1967 and 2005 he was very active in the pedagogical process, giving geophysical lectures, 4 to 6 hours weekly, at the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics and the Faculty of natural Sciences of the Comenius University. For many years he had been the head of the Geomagnetic observatory of the GI SAS in Hurbanovo. From 1989 to 1996 Dr. Hvoždara was the director of the GI SAS. He coordinated several scientific research grants and projects. During 1988–1997 he took the position of the secretary of the Scientific Council of the SAS for earth and space sciences. He chaired the Committee for Geophysics. He was a member of several editorial boards of scientific journals, as well as editor in chief of the Contributions to Geophysics and Geodesy journal published by our institute. Until his departure he was actively involved in the editorial work. His work was rewarded by numerous awards, such as Honorary Award for Merits in Advancing the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of the Comenius University (1987), Honorary Silver Plaque of Dionýz Štúr for merits in natural sciences (1992), commemorative medals of the Geofyzika Brno company (1989). Milan Hvoždara was an outstanding teacher. His lifelong creed was to create conditions for scientific growth of the young and talented colleagues.

We will remember Associated Professor Milan Hvoždara as a very honest, friendly and human colleague, outstanding man and best friend. Those who knew him will miss him.

RNDr. Ladislav Brimich, CSc.
RNDr. Peter Vajda, PhD.