



Prof. dr habil. Leonas Povilas LINGAITIS

OBITUARY

Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (VGTU) lost a long-term academic staff member, head of Department of Railway Transport at the Faculty of Transport Engineering, prof. dr habil. Leonas Povilas Lingaitis. The professor passed away on 19 July 2013 after his illness at the age of 75.

The graduate of Kaunas Polytechnic Institute gained the mechanical engineering diploma in 1964 with the road construction machinery being his major. He worked in the construction bureau at the Radio Factory in Kaunas for 4 years before entering the Leningrad Polytechnic Institute in 1968. In 1971 Leonas P. Lingaitis was awarded a doctor's degree in technical sciences and came back to Lithuania to develop his career as an associate professor at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (at that time-Vilnius Civil Engineering Institute). In 1972 he worked at the Department of Automobiles and in 1985 he started working in the Department of Technologic Equipment. In 1988 Dr L. P. Lingaitis defended his thesis for doctor habilitus degree at Moscow Civil Engineering Institute and in 1990 was awarded the Professor's title at his home institution VGTU.

In 1994 prof. L.P. Lingaitis was appointed the head of the VGTU newly established Department of Railway Transport at the Faculty of Transport Engineering, and worked there till his last days. The Professor was the dean of the Faculty of Transport Engineering in the period of 1998-2007.

Prof Leonas Povilas Lingaitis was the coordinator of a variety of contracts for the research and expert analysis ordered by companies. He was the initiator, the leader, the author and co-author of more than 250 scientific manuscripts, the author of a monograph and the co-author of two monographs. The Professor's mission in education resulted in his authorship of several manuals and 8 textbooks published for the university students. In 2002 the Ministry of Education and Sciences of the Republic of Lithuania granted L. P. Lingaitis with the state outstanding researcher's award. In the period of

2003-2006 the professor won awards for his manuals “Rail Vehicle Maintenance”, “Rail Vehicle Diagnostic Analysis” and “Rail Vehicle Maintenance and Reliability”.

In 2006 on the occasion of VGTU 50th anniversary L. P. Lingaitis was awarded the University golden medal for the professor’s fruitful academic activity and devotion to the academic community. In 2013 the Senate of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University conferred Leonas Povilas Lingaitis the title of professor emeritus.

The Professor initiated and actively promoted the cooperation between the Department of Railway Transport and State Company „Lithuanian Railways“. Leonas Povilas Lingaitis was elected the member of Railway transport committee in the Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists (LPK), a member of Technical Council in State Company „Lithuanian Railways“, a member of the Engineering Industries Association in Lithuania, and a member of Research and Information Technology Council in the Ministry of Transport and Communications. In 2004 the professor was awarded the name of a „Distinguished Rail-man“ for his active scientific support and influence to the Company „Lithuanian Railways“, he was also selected the Chairman of the Union of the Narrow Railway Gauge in Lithuania. Professor Leonas P. Lingaitis actively participated in international research projects, made over 40 scientific presentations in international conferences. He was involved in partnership activities with the colleagues of the relevant institutions and companies in Latvia, Belorussia, Poland and Ukraine. The Professor was the member of Editorial Boards of two international scientific journals and the member of Scientific Committee of 5 international scientific conferences.

Special relationship associated professor L.P. Lingaitis with the Silesian University of Technology. He was the member of International Programming Council of the journal „Transport Problems“. He contributed to the development of scientific relations between the Polish and Lithuanian scientists, being members of the scientific committee of Int. Sci. Conference “Transport Problems“. He was demanding and friendly reviewer of many research papers and monographs.

The colleagues will remember Leonas Povilas Lingaitis as a competent, and demanding leader, and at the same time hardworking, open to suggestions and a kind person.

Everyone who knew the Professor will always keep a bright memory of him. God bless prof. Leonas Povilas Lingaitis.

The editors of Journal “Transport Problems”