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IN MEMORIAM

Professor Emeritus Dragutin Taboršak

(12th June 1925 - 20th December 2018)

It is with deep sorrow that we have to announce that our dear colleague, Professor Emeritus Dragutin Taboršak, member of the Department of Industrial Engineering at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, University of Zagreb, as well as an honorary member of the Croatian Ergonomics Society, passed away peacefully. He has left behind many close friends and colleagues. His death touched us deeply and made us very sad.



Professor Emeritus Dragutin Taboršak was mentor, teacher and colleague who gave his enthusiasm, personality and freshness to his work. He inspired his students by giving them selflessly his knowledge, experience and his time working with them both in the classroom and in the laboratory.

Dragutin Taboršak was born in Sunja and in his early teenage years went to Zagreb for high school education, which he completed in 1944. His beginnings in the technical profession was working in his father's locksmith workshop and parallel he started studying at the Technical Faculty at the University of Zagreb. He completed his study in 1950 and afterwards started to work in industry, first in the company "Rade Končar" and afterwards in the company ZET and later in the company "Radnik". In all these companies he was dealing with organization of preparation of work as well as production management. The experience obtained in these companies showed him how much can still be investigated and implemented in this field.

Therefore, he went back to the Faculty to do his doctoral thesis and more research in the field of organizing the preparation of work. He finished his PhD and became assistant professor at the Higher Post-secondary Technical School at the University of Zagreb in 1962, and soon after he became associate professor. From 1966 till 1968 he was the Dean. In 1968 the Higher Technical School became part of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture where Professor Taboršak was Dean from 1968-1970. During his academic career he was part of many Faculty and University activities as well as councils. It should be highlighted that he was head of doctoral council where he developed new fields of research and introduced ergonomics as a new scientific field in Croatia.

During his PhD study, Professor Taboršak spent eight months in Paris in companies "Bureau des Temps Elementaires" and "Renault" as well as 3 months in Darmstadt in the company "REFA". In these periods he had the opportunity to learn about work ergonomics and bring that knowledge to Croatia, implementing it in his lectures.

Collecting all this knowledge and experience from abroad and in industry he came to the conclusion that ergonomics needed to be more implemented and used in Croatia; therefore, he established the Croatian Society of

Ergonomics on 20th May 1974 in Zagreb where he was the first president. Later, the society changed its name to the Croatian Ergonomics Society (CrES). In accordance with the mission and vision of the founder of the society, CrES has taken care of scientific, professional and educational fields of ergonomics in the Republic of Croatia, as well as promoted cooperation with the business community. Since the establishment, CrES has been interconnected with relevant societies and organizations in the field of ergonomics worldwide to sustain the scientific and professional level.

The main scientific interests of Professor Taboršak were Work Studies, Ergonomics and Production Organisation about which he published many scientific and professional papers and also did many seminars in industry. His knowledge in this field he implemented in teaching and established the Laboratory for work studies, first of that kind in Croatia. Also, he published the book Work Studies that had four editions and this book made the foundations in the field of ergonomics in Croatia, and it is still in use.

As a respectable professor responsible for developing new research areas, for his contribution in science and teaching, mentoring students, for participation in many scientific and industrial project solving real production problems Professor Dragutin Taboršak received in 1992 from the Republic of Croatia the Life Achievement Award.

There is so much that can be told about the rich history of the activities of Professor Taboršak, but we are going to remember Professor Taboršak most for his optimistic character, creativity in his work and devotion to his Faculty and country of Croatia. With the death of Professor Emeritus Dragutin Taboršak, the professional and scientific community lost a prominent member, extraordinary expert in the field of work study and ergonomics, a dear colleague and friend who will be remembered by generations of students, colleagues and friends who worked with him.

May he rest in peace!

Zagreb, 6th January 2019

Executive Board of the Croatian Ergonomics Society