

OBITUARY OF PROFESSOR IRENA DOBRZAŃSKA



Prof. Irena Maria Dobrzańska passed away on 30th April 2010 in Częstochowa. She was born on 21st April 1933 in Dąbrowa Górnicza. Between 1951 and 1956 she studied at the Electrical Engineering Faculty at the Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice, where she obtained a Master's degree in electrical engineering. In 1956 she started working as a measurement engineer in the Research and Measurement Company "Energopomiar" in Gliwice and following that she was employed in the Institute of Power Engineering as a scientific research worker.

The late Professor Irena Dobrzańska obtained her PhD degree in technical science in 1963 from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering at Gdańsk University of Technology. She took up the duties of Assistant Professor at the Electrical Engineering Faculty at the Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice. By 1968 she was the author of several dozen technical and research articles dealing with fuel and power technology. In this year she moved to the Electrical Engineering Faculty at Częstochowa University of Technology, where she obtained the position of Associate Professor in 1969 and became Head of the Department of Electrical Apparatus and Control Devices.

Between 1970 and 2002, Professor Irena Dobrzańska continuously held managerial roles in the Electrical Engineering Faculty (temporarily called the Electrical Power Engineering Institute): Vice-Dean, Director of the Institute and Dean. In this period she also received further degrees and scientific titles: in 1970 she obtained her DSc habilitation, in 1978 she was awarded the title of Associate Professor and was appointed to the position of Associate Professor at Częstochowa University of Technology. Next, in 1992 the Ministry of Education appointed her to the position of Full Professor at the same University.

Professor Irena Dobrzańska was the supervisor of 8 PhD graduates and supervisor and scientific editor for one DSc thesis. During her work at Częstochowa University of Technology, she was the principal investigator for 14 scientific and research projects concerning diagnostics, energy requirements and forecasting. She was the author of one book, 12 monographs, 34 refereed articles, 20 domestic and foreign conference reports and 75 unpublished research articles, in addition to 1 patent and over 70 collaborative scientific articles. She was a reviewer for numerous PhD and DSc theses, as well as for proceedings awarding the title of Associate Professor and Professor.

The late Professor Irena Dobrzańska was a member of the Electrical Power Committee of the Polish Academy of Science in 1969–1974, the Electricity Committee of the Polish Academy of Science in 1980–1983 and the Power Engineering Board of the Polish Academy of Science (Silesian Department) from 1976. In the sixties she was the Editor-in-Chief of the Institute of Power Engineering Bulletin, a supplement to the monthly “Energetics” and a member of the editorial boards of the following journals: “Archives of Energetics”, “Papers on Science and Forecasting” and “Operations Research and Decisions”. She was also a member of the International Institute of Forecasters (Houston, USA) from 1990. She retired in 2003.

The research activity of the late Professor Irena Dobrzańska concerned very many aspects of the technology of electrical power engineering: coal power plants, the national power balance, optimization of the development strategy for fuel and energy, variability of load in power systems, forecasting in electrical power engineering and electrical power engineering in a market economy. She was the creator of a scientific school of thought dealing with forecasting in electrical power engineering, respected in Poland and well known abroad. She was always esteemed as an academic teacher by her students.

For her services to scientific development and administrative achievements, she was awarded state distinctions: the Knight’s Cross of the Rebirth of Poland (1984) and Gold Cross of Merit (1979) and many departmental and university medals. She also obtained two Ministry Awards and numerous Vice-Chancellor Prizes from the Silesian and Częstochowa Universities of Technology.

A remarkable Person has passed away – an outstanding researcher and respected mentor of students and scientific researchers.

Peace to Her Memory!

*On behalf of the Editorial Board
Professor Jacek W. Mercik
Editor-in-Chief*