

Professor Nicolae ILIAȘ, D. Eng., DHC, turned 85

Born on August 30th, 1935, at Ohaba-Forgaci, in Banat, which today belongs to Boldur village, near Lugoj, he attended primary school in his native village; further he went to *Coriolan Brediceanu* High School in Lugoj that he graduated in 1953. During the period 1953–1958 he continued his professional training at the *Faculty of Mines in Petroșani*, where he later was hired as a university assistant. Owing to the importance of mining at the time and to the lack of specialists in the domain, during the period 1960–1964, he was sent for doctoral studies to the *Institute of Mines in Leningrad*. After he got his Ph.D., he returned to Petroșani and devoted himself to his prodigious didactic and scientific activity he still continues at present.

In 1973 he became a Professor and in 1974 a Ph.D. supervisor; between 1977 and 2020, he coordinated the activity of over 100 specialists who got the scientific title of doctors in engineering. Professor Iliș held a series of leadership positions, such as: Dean of the *Faculty of Mines* (1967–1968), Dean of the *Faculty of Mining Electro-Mechanics* (1972–1980), chief of the *Chair of Mining Machines* (1985–1990) and Rector of the *University of Petroșani* (1990–2004). He participated in traineeships at prestigious European universities: the *Academy of Mines in Freiberg* (Germany), the *Mining Higher Education Institutions in Alès, Nancy and Paris* (France), *Oxford University* (Great Britain), “*Pierre et Marie Curie*” and “*Sorbonne*” *Universities in Paris* (France), *University of Ostrava* (Czech Republic), *State Polytechnic University in Kharkov* (Ukraine), *University of Torino* (Italy) and *University of Mines in Moscow* (Russia). Meanwhile, he took part in official visits abroad, for scientific and didactic purposes as well as for negotiation purposes in the business field, in over 50 countries in Europe, Asia, South America and Africa.

He enjoys a well-deserved prestige in the academic and scientific milieu in the country and abroad owing to a long activity, over 500 articles published in specialized magazines, over 30 books, treatises and monographs, over 20 patents of invention and hundreds of contracts of scientific research. All these cover several domains: machines, equipment and devices for capitalizing resources, industrial engineering, non-conventional technologies, academic management and quality management. Professor Iliș, through providing continuity to his research, through his creativity and training a lot of disciples and collaborators, created a school and opened new research directions, some



of his research themes being part of the scientific programs financed by the European Union.

His scientific merits contributed to his reputation: he is a member and expert-evaluator in the *International Committee for Organizing Mining World Congresses*, in Warsaw – Poland, the *International Society of the Mining Professors SOMP* in London – Great Britain, the *National Foundation for Research and Development “Shota Rustaveli”* in Tbilisi – Georgia, the *Mining, Geology and Metallurgy Technical and Scientific Union* in Sofia – Bulgaria, the *International Centre for Scientific and Technical information* in Moscow, the *Consultative Research Council of the American Biographic Institute* in Raleigh, North Carolina – U.S.A., the *Balkan Mining Association BALKANMIN* in Sofia – Bulgaria, the *World Mineralogy Organisation OMM* in Monaco – Principality of Monaco, the *International Association of the Presidents of Universities IAUP* in Oxford – Great Britain, the *European Society for Structural Integration ESIS* in Darmstadt – Germany. He is also a member of the *Academy of Mining Sciences* and of the *Academy of Natural Sciences of the Russian Federation*, of the *Brazilian Academy of Sciences and Culture*, of the *Academy of Transportation Sciences*, of the *International Academy of Superior Schools* and of the *Academy of Mining Sciences*, the last three in Ukraine. In Romania, he is the president of the Department of *Oil, Mines and Geonomy Engineering* of the *Academy of Technical Sciences*, as well as a member of the *Romanian National Committee of the World*

Energy Council (coordinator of the program: *Coal and other fossil resources*), of the *Romanian National Mining Committee* (first vice-president), of the *National Association of Environment Managers and Evaluators*, of the *Romanian Agency for Quality Certification in Higher Education* and of the *General Association of Romanian Engineers* (in 2001, he founded AGIR's branch in Petroșani, whose president has been for a long time). He is an expert-evaluator for ARACIS, CNCIS and for international projects, a member of the editorial boards of several national and international scientific publications and honorary citizen of the County of Hunedoara, of the Municipality of Petroșani and of his native village, Boldur, in the County of Timiș.

As an acknowledgement of his own achievements, the mining-profile universities in Miskolc, Kharkov, Sofia and Moscow as well as those in Ploiești, Baia Mare, Chișinău and Petroșani granted him the honorary title of *Doctor Honoris Causa*. For his long didactic, scientific, cultural and pastoral-missionary activity, Professor Ilias has been included in various foreign and Romanian monographs and directories and has received more than 100 prizes, honorary and excellence diplomas, anniversary plates, orders and national and international medals. He has also been awarded the *National Order "Steaua României"*, in the rank of officer (2000), the *Patriarchal Golden Cross* – the highest distinction given by Romanian Patriarchy (2002) and the *Gold medal at the International Salon of Inventions, Eureka*, in Brussels – Belgium (2002).

The international cooperation of the University of Petroșani has always been a permanent preoccupation of Professor and Rector Ilias; he initiated and concluded a series of collaboration contracts with world-known institutions and universities. The benefits of these collaborations have proved to be quite important as they contributed to the development of scientific research, to the improvement of didactic processes, to providing better equipment to laboratories and encouraging the mobility of the teaching staff and students. The numberless titles and academic acknowledgements, based on a prodigious and competent activity, only show one aspect of his personality. The other aspect, which is not displayed by the academic titles and the varied works he published, is given by the man, the colleague and friend, the jovial host and partner of discussions, the attentive observer and the subtle and spiritual commentator of everything around him. Gifted by God with a remarkable work power and vitality, Professor Ilias is still carrying out an indefatigable activity as a scientist, a professor and a member of the community.

After having returned from his doctoral studies in Leningrad, Professor Ilias started a fruitful collaboration with *Revista minelor*, both through publishing scientific articles and carrying out reviews and through his responsibilities as a member of the scientific board of the journal (member and then vice-president of the editorial board or senior editor). We still remember the articles, concerning the improvement of the extraction technologies and the complex mechanization of the coal mines in Romania, written by Professor Ilias, beginning with year 1965, together with other researchers, which represented the only manner they could become known and make their careers advance. At the time, the students, engineers and designers could hardly find bibliographic resources required to conceive the projects for coal extraction and those articles were almost the sole resource for documentation. Later, Professor Ilias stimulated and supported his collaborators and doctoral students to publish the results of their researches in *Revista minelor*. Moreover, during the 14 years when he was the Rector of the University, he resorted to the journal with a view to promote the image of mining higher education in Petroșani, both as an educational process and as an activity of scientific research.

On the occasion of his 85th anniversary, the specialists he educated and trained as well as his friends and colleagues wish Professor Ilias a long life, health and work power.

Happy Anniversary, Professor !

Prof.eng. Ph.D Ioan-Lucian BOLUNDUȚ