

IN MEMORIAM: PROF. PRANAS BALTRĖNAS (1940–2021)

On January 14, 2021, Prof. Pranas Baltrėnas, the founder and long-time editor-in-chief of the *Environmental Engineering and Landscape Management* journal passed away. The professor left this world at the proud age of 80, of which, he has never spent a single day not working. His desire to work and live always had, and always will, inspire us like no other.

Prof. Pranas Baltrėnas was born on August 2, 1940. In 1948, he and his parents were deported to Siberia, Krasnoyarsk Krai, and settled in the village of Mina. There, the future professor graduated from high school (1958), then studied at Krasnoyarsk Riverside Technical School in the Department of Ship Mechanics. After graduating as a mechanical technician, in 1962–1963 worked in the Nemunas Shipping Company as a ship mechanic. From 1963 to 1966 he studied at Leningrad Institute of Water Transport, and since 1966 at Kaunas Polytechnic Institute, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering. In 1969 he graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering and worked (1970–1978) in Kaunas Polytechnical Institute, Laboratory of Labour Safety Research as a senior engineer and researcher. Since 1978, he worked at Vilnius Gediminas technical university as a lecturer, associate professor, later as a professor, the head of the established Department of Environmental Protection, director of the established Institute of Environmental Protection. In 1975 he defended his dissertation and became a Candidate of Technical Sciences, and in 1989 – a Doctor of Technical Sciences (now habil. Dr).

Pranas Baltrėnas was awarded St. Christopher's Statuette and medal "For Merits to Vilnius and the Nation", badges of honour of various ministries and agencies. Professor P. Baltrėnas was also honoured by the university administration multiple times. Also he was a laureate of the Science Prize of the Republic of Lithuania, Gold Medal Winner of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Prof. P. Baltrėnas was a member of the editorial boards of many internationally recognized journals, for more than 25 years he was a chairman of the Vilnius City Council public Environmental Protection Commission, 36th Technical Committee of the Lithuanian Standardization



Department, Member of the Council of the Union of Scientists and Member of the Board of the Society for the Beautification of Lithuania.

Prof. P. Baltrėnas was the author and co-author of 20 monographs, 25 teaching and 4 scientific books, more than 430 scientific publications, over 100 inventions. The society of Vilnius Gediminas technical university was blessed to have this prominent inventor and scientist among them. He was never an indifferent observer. The professor was always an active specialist in the field of environmental protection, an enterprising and highly productive member of the university community, involved in all university processes, at the same time an example of a Siberia-hardened endurance and enthusiasm for his younger university colleagues. He showed great passion for science and love of life. His example refuted the age limit stereotypes formed in society.

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