



OBITUARY OF PROFESSOR WALDEMAR MIODUSZEWSKI

Professor Waldemar Mioduszewski, an outstanding specialist in hydro-technology and water management, long standing employee of

the Institute of Technology and Life Sciences (Pol. Instytut Technologiczno-Przyrodniczy – ITP), formerly Institute of Land Reclamation and Grassland Farming (Pol. Instytut Melioracji i Użytków Zielonych – IMUZ), passed away on September 13th 2017.

Waldemar Mioduszewski was born in 1938 in Starosielce near Białystok. In the years 1955–1960 he studied at the Faculty of Water Reclamation, Warsaw Agricultural University (Pol. Szkoła Główna Gospodarstwa Wiejskiego – SGGW, Wydział Melioracji Wodnych) where he obtained the MSc engineer degree. Doctoral degree in technical sciences he obtained at the same faculty in 1967 by defending the dissertation on the size and distribution of hydraulic gradients in ground sealing of earthen dams in view of modelling studies. Waldemar Mioduszewski received post-doctoral degree in 1973 upon the study: “Filtration through embankments of industrial wastes dumping sites”. The title of full professor was granted to Waldemar Mioduszewski in 1985.

In 1963 Waldemar Mioduszewski obtained a half-year fellowship to study modelling of ground water flow and to analyse reverse filters at the Agricultural Academy in Moscow and another one to study filtration of polluted waters through porous media in the years 1968–1969 in the United States. In the years 1959–1975 he was employed at the Faculty of Water Reclamation SGGW, in the Department of Soil Science and Land Constructions (Pol. Katedra Gruntoznawstwa i Budownictwa Ziarnego) and then at the Institute of Reclamation and Agricultural Constructions (Pol. Instytut Budownictwa Melioracyjnego i Rolniczego) of the same university starting from the post of technician through assistant, senior assistant to assistant professor. In the years 1978–1980 he was employed in Nigeria as a lecturer of civil engineering.

His work with the Institute of Land Reclamation and Grassland Farming (Pol. Instytut Melioracji i Użytków Zielonych – IMUZ) started in 1973 at the post of the head of the Department of Water and Reclamation Engineering (Pol. Zakład Budownictwa

Wodno-Melioracyjnego). In the years 1974–1975 he was the chief of the Independent Laboratory of Calculation Methods (Pol. Samodzielna Pracownia Zastosowań Metod Obliczeniowych) followed by heading the Filtration Laboratory (Pol. Pracownia Filtracji) in 1975–1977 and the Geo-technique Laboratory (Pol. Pracownia Geotechniki) in 1977. Since 1992 he was the head of the Department of Water Resources (Pol. Zakład Zasobów Wodnych). In the years 2002–2012 Professor Waldemar Mioduszewski co-operated with the firm GEOTEKO Projects and Geo-Technical Consultations Ltd. (GEOTEKO Projekty i Konsultacje Geotechniczne Sp. z o.o.) founded by professor Wojciech Wolski and specializing in geo-technical field studies. His work was mainly devoted to problems pertaining to exploitation of the largest in Europe container of post-flotation wastes in Żelazny Most.

Since 1975 Professor Mioduszewski was a member of the Scientific Board of the Institute for Land Reclamation and Grassland Farming (Pol. Instytut Melioracji i Użytków Zielonych – IMUZ), being its deputy chairman since 1995 and chairman in the years 2004–2010. After establishment of the Institute of Technology and Life Sciences (Pol. Instytut Technologiczno-Przyrodniczy – ITP) in 2010 he became deputy chairman of its Scientific Board.

Professor Mioduszewski was supervisor of 8 doctoral theses, a mentor in several habilitation procedures and, first of all, a great authority as a referee of enormous number of scientific papers: articles, PhD and habilitation theses, achievements and grants. He was also very active in many scientific societies and organisations both Polish and foreign and in specialist associations like e.g.:

- State Board of Environmental Protection (Pol. Państwowa Rada Ochrony Środowiska),
- Committee of Reclamation and Agricultural Environment Engineering, Polish Academy of Sciences (Pol. Komitet Melioracji i Inżynierii Środowiska Rolniczego PAN) in which he served as chairman in the years 1989–1997,
- Committee of Water Management, Polish Academy of Sciences (Pol. Komitet Gospodarki Wodnej PAN),
- Scientific Boards of the Biebrza and Narew National Parks (Pol. Biebrzański i Narwiański Park Narodowy),

- International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage – ICID (Pol. Międzynarodowa Komisja Nawodnień i Odwodnień),
- International Committee of Geo-technique (Pol. Międzynarodowy Komitet Geotechniki),
- International Commission on Large Dams – ICOLD (Pol. Międzynarodowa Komisja Wielkich Zapór),
- International Commission for the Protection of the Odra River against Pollution – MKOO/IKSO (Pol. Międzynarodowa Komisja Ochrony Odry przed Zanieczyszczeniami),
- Association of Water Engineers and Techniques (Pol. Stowarzyszenie Inżynierów i Techników Wodnych i Melioracyjnych – SITWM NOT).

Till the end of his life Professor Mioduszewski was a handling editor of the journal „Woda-Środowisko-Obszary Wiejskie” (“Water-Environment-Rural Areas”), where he took care of the quality of papers on water management. He was also editor-in-chief of:

- “Journal of Water and Land Development”, edited jointly by the Institute of Technology and Life Sciences (Pol. Instytut Technologiczno-Przyrodniczy – ITP) and Polish Academy of Sciences (Pol. Polska Akademia Nauk – PAN),
- „Wiadomości Melioracyjne i Łąkarskie” (“Reclamation and Pratotechnique Newsletter”) edited by the Association of Water Engineers and Techniques (Pol. Stowarzyszenie Inżynierów i Techników Wodnych i Melioracyjnych – SITWM NOT).

During his long career Professor Mioduszewski obtained many professional and state awards and distinctions including the Knight’s Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta (Pol. Krzyż Kawalerski Orderu Odrodzenia Polski) for outstanding merits in research work. His last distinction was the Honorary Member and Meritorious Senior of the Association of Water Engineers and Techniques in esteem of his long work for the Association (Pol. Stowarzyszenie Inżynierów i Techników Wodnych i Melioracyjnych – SITWM NOT).

Main scientific interests of Professor Mioduszewski concentrated around geo-technique and groundwater flow for the needs of water reclamation constructions. In particular, he was involved in studies on physical and mechanical ground properties, constructions on weak grounds, earthen dams and flood embankments, technologies of earth works, filtration through earthen dams, the effects of water bodies on adjacent areas and reclamation systems in river valleys. With time, Professor Mioduszewski was engaged in more and more complex projects associated

with water management in rural areas, protection of the amount and quality of surface and ground waters, wetland hydrology and protection and restoration of river valleys. Personality of Professor Mioduszewski is especially associated with small water retention. For many years he clarified and developed this idea, hence he may be considered its founder.

The number of publications by Professor Mioduszewski is hard to establish. For certain, it counts several hundred positions including fifteen or so books and monographs and valuable specialist manuals. The last one „Małe budowle wodne. Katalog” (“Small water constructions. A catalogue”) was awarded by the Federation of Scientific and Technical Associations (Pol. Federacja Stowarzyszeń Naukowo-Technicznych – NOT) in a competition TECHNICUS 2016 in category – the best technical manual. Similarly large is the number of expertises made by Professor himself or as a team member.

Professor Mioduszewski was an exceptionally laborious and conscientious man. It suffices to say that he never had health leave during his 45-year-long work in the Institute! It was not a standard conscientiousness but rather a great necessity for being needed. There were many situations, when we decided to be involved in a specific case, under condition we would have more time in the future. The next day Professor sent us his ready position in the matter. Such an agility is a privilege of very talented persons.

Late Professor Mioduszewski had an exceptional ability to judge phenomena in a very apt and synthetic way. Many times he surprised his co-workers with the assessment of complex problems by totally neglecting a flood of various comments and extracting the kernel of causes and consequences. This probably reflected his innate attitude of ironic sceptic. In his scepticism Professor was very rarely mistaken.

Professor Mioduszewski had a son Michał and two grandchildren, with whom he kept close contact till the end of his life. His wife Ewa passed away in 2016.

Death of Professor Mioduszewski is a great loss for all professionals and especially for the Institute of Technology and Life Sciences. Leading specialist in water management and editor of scientific journals has passed away. We all will simply miss very intelligent, laborious, clever and kind-hearted man always willing to share his knowledge and experience with everybody.

Board of Directors

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