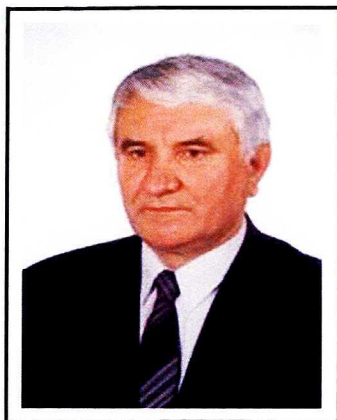


Professor Dr. Lubomir Włodzimierz Baran, 1937–2009



Lubomir Włodzimierz Baran, age 71, passed away in Olsztyn, on 3rd April 2009, after a serious illness. He was to become one of the outstanding geodesists of his generation, with the wide international reputation in the community of Earth's sciences.

Lubomir W. Baran was born on 27th September 1937 in Żniatyn, in south-eastern Poland. He received his early education in Ełk, where he graduated from high school in 1955. Then he attended Warsaw University of Technology, where at the Faculty of Geodesy and Cartography he received the degree of Master of Science in geodesy in 1960. At the same faculty he received his PhD in 1966 and habilitation (Doctor of Science) in 1972. In 1976 Lubomir W. Baran was awarded a title of professor by the President of Poland, and in 1987 – a title of full professor.

His scientific career Lubomir W. Baran started in 1960 at the Agriculture Higher School in Olsztyn (transformed later into the Agriculture-Technical Academy, and finally into the University of Warmia and Mazury) as one of the founders in 1960 of a recent Faculty of Geodesy and Land Management. With the advent of satellite geodesy he was deeply involved in the development of this field, that became later one of the major fields of his expertise. In 1961 he established in Olsztyn the station No 1151 of optical observations of satellites and ran it together with a group of students, affected with his enthusiasm. 17 years later, in 1978, he founded and headed for more than two decades the Satellite Observatory at Lamkówko, north-east of Olsztyn, that in 1994 became a station LAMA of IGS network.

Professor Lubomir W. Baran developed numerous methods of adjustment of geodetic networks with the use of satellite data. Following the progress in the development of artificial Earth satellites observation techniques, his first investigations concerned photographic observations of satellites. Then he developed methods of adjusting trilateration networks based on early SLR data. His research interest also focused on the adjustment of satellite triangulation networks on regional and continental scale, on the use of satellite techniques for quality control and strengthening the terrestrial geodetic control networks, and on multigroup as well as sequential adjustment of geodetic networks with large number of parameters to be determined.

Professor Lubomir W. Baran's later research concentrated on the use of global positioning systems in geodesy and geodynamics, especially on error propagation in GNSS networks, and on the application of GNSS to studying ionosphere and its impact on GNSS positioning. He initiated works on the establishment in 1990. of the integrated geodetic control network in Poland in the ETRS system. He also substantially contributed to the development of the ASG-EUPOS network of active multifunctional permanently operating GNSS stations in Poland, that became fully operational in 2008.

The results of Professor Lubomir W. Baran's research were presented in more than 260 publications, that include almost 100 monographs and original papers and 7 academic books. They also were presented at almost 250 symposia, of them 130 international ones.

Besides providing continuous education at the university level to undergraduate and graduate students for 48 years Professor Lubomir W. Baran successfully supervised 8 PhD students. He was also very active as a reviewer. Besides reviewing a few hundred articles and research projects he was involved as a referee in almost 150 processes of promotions concerning scientific degrees and titles.

Professor Lubomir W. Baran's talents were quickly recognized by the academic society. He was a Dean of the Faculty of Geodesy and Land Management (1969–1975, 1978–1981, 1992–1999), a Deputy Dean (1975–1978). He also was a Vice-Rector (1981–1984) and then a Rector (1984–1987) of the Agriculture-Technical Academy in Olsztyn. At the Faculty he headed the Chair of Geodesy and Photogrammetry (1969–1970), the Chair of Geodesy (1970–1976). He was also a Deputy Director (1983–1984) and Director (1976–1983, 1989–1993) of the Institute of Geodesy and Photogrammetry.

Professor Lubomir W. Baran was honoured in many ways. In 1994 he became a corresponding member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, in 2007 – an ordinary member of PAS and since 2003 – a member of the Presidium of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He was elected to numerous scientific committees of the Polish Academy of Sciences, e.g. Committee on Geodesy (President since 2003), Committee on Astronomy, Committee on Geophysics, Committee on Space and Satellite Research, National Committee for the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (President since 1996). He was also elected to numerous research councils, e.g. at the Institute of Geodesy and Cartography, Institute of Geophysics of PAS, Space Research Centre of PAS, Olsztyn Planetarium and Astronomical Observatory. Since 1991 he was a member of the Polish Central Commission for Scientific Degrees and Titles.

Talents of Professor Lubomir W. Baran had also been recognized by the international scientific community. He was an active member of numerous international scientific organizations, e.g. American Geophysical Union, COSPAR, European Geosciences Union, IAG, IUGG. In 1983–1987 he was a President of the IAG Special Study Group No 1.59 Computer Assisted Design of Geodetic Networks, and later in 1992–95 – a President of the IAG Special Study Group No 1.127 Error Propagation in GPS Networks. In 1991 he was honoured with a fellowship of the International Association of Geodesy. In 2003 he became a member of IAG. Since 1988 he was

a national representative to the IAG Sub-commission EUREF, since 1995 he was an accredited delegate of Poland to the Council of the IUGG and in 1995–2000 national correspondent of the IAG.

In 2000 the Agriculture Academy in Wrocław honoured Prof. Lubomir W. Baran awarding him an honorary doctor degree. In 2005 Rector and the Senate of the Warsaw University of Technology honoured him by electing him to be Honorary Professor of the Faculty of Geodesy and Cartography. He also awarded over 20 research awards and was decorated with numerous medal including a few highest state medals.

Professor Lubomir W. Baran was recognized as a respected scientist, involved in international cooperation in geodesy, always supporting interdisciplinary cooperation in research. He was an unquestionable authority, he brought up a few generations of engineers, and he was a wonderful Man, Man of tact, warm and kind, extremely popular among his collaborators, students and alumni. He will be missed very much by many of his friends and collaborators. He will be remembered in the academic community as unattainable model, outstanding scientist, honourable man and a true friend.

Jan Kryński