

Congratulations to Dr. Vlastimil Brožek on the occasion of his 70th birthday



International PM Conference Zlín:
the visit to Rožnov pod Radhoštěm.

Dr. Vlastimil Brožek (left) with the then premier world powder metallurgist, Professor Richard Kieffer (and his Czech guide Dr. Vladimír Dufek, author of this note).

Photo by Dr. Henri Pastor,
Eurotungstene, Grenoble.

On 28.12.2008 Associate Professor Vlastimil Brožek celebrated his 70th anniversary. The chemistry public knows him as an inorganic chemist who lectures (and educates doctorands) in the Institute of Chemical Technology of Prague Technical University. Additionally he gives lectures at the Electrotechnical Faculty of Czech Technical University in Prague and in the Masaryk University in Brno. A number of his students gained important positions abroad (e.g. Norway, Japan) and propagate thus the high reputation of Czech science all the world over.

His curriculum vitae begins with maturity examen in 1956, continues with Military Technical Academy in Brno and Prague Institute of Chemical Technology, successfully concluded in 1961. Then he worked for three years in the Research Institute for Powder Metallurgy, Šumperk, where he gained considerable experience and substantial base-line for industrial research. Returning to Prague in 1964 he advanced on all the career steps in the Prague Institute of Chemical Technology. He obtained the PhD degree in chemical sciences in 1968, habilitated as Associate Professor in 1975 and 1989 attained the degree Dr.Sc.

In 1964 he became a member of the Czech Chemical Society and of the Czechoslovak Scientific and Technical Society. Till 1994 he arranged a great number of domestic conferences and an International Aluminium Oxide Conference. He has received numerous awards, e.g. Silver Badge of the Czechoslovak Sci. and Techn. Society. Further he is a member of Czech Society for New Materials and Technologies and became also a member of the prestigious Plansee Gesellschaft in Austria.

In 1969 he was proposed for a German Government Humbolt Stiftung visit, but he was not allowed to leave the country. Later in 1972 he was on short term attachments at the Université Libre in Belgium and in the Université René Descartes in France.

He became a member of the Expert Group of Ministry of Education in the year 1975 to elaborate the concept of a new study branch: Technology for Metal and Special Inorganic Materials. Till the last year he lectured on this discipline at the Institute of Chemical Technology in Prague.

Since 1990 he is active as a senior research worker at the Institute of Plasma Physics, Academy of Science, Czech Republic. He effectively utilizes there his experience of powder technology for the study and practical use of materials in interaction with low temperature plasma. In this sphere he took part in a number of international grants, in 1996 the first EUREKA series together with ETH Zurich and the ABB Company.

The Czech Government Council nominated him in 1993 into the branch commission "Technical Sciences of the Grant Agency of Czech Republic" and succeeded also in the competition for UNIDO expert.

Powder metallurgy is lectured in different educational establishment in the Czech Republic, but Dr. Brožek (with co-authors) is the only participant who contributes in most significant Powder Metallurgy meetings, World Congresses and Exhibitions or Plansee seminars. In the WCE PM Paris 1994 he chaired the section Superhard Materials.

In 1999 he lectured in the University Sherbrooke in Canada and University of Illinois, Chicago. He is the author of more than 300 contributions in Czech and international journals and Proceedings of International Conferences. For a modern monograph about Special Technology and Materials (Sestak et al., Academy Prague 1993) he wrote one of the most important parts. To conclude, it can be mentioned that he started with the chemistry of scandium and lanthanoids, changed to high melting metals, especially tungsten, and is now continuing in the branch of materials with the highest melting points.

Vladimír Dufek