

PREFACE
IN HONOUR OF PROFESSOR ILONA BÁRÁNY-KEVEI
ON THE OCCASION OF HER 70TH ANNIVERSARY

The current issue of *Acta Climatologica et Chorologica* is dedicated to Professor Ilona Bárány-Kevei, the former editor-in-chief of this journal and head of the Department of Climatology and Landscape Ecology at the University of Szeged, on the occasion of her 70th birthday and her retirement.

Professor Ilona Bárány-Kevei was born on 23 September 1941 in Zsadány, Hungary. After finishing the Szegedi Kiss István Secondary School in Békés, she entered the József Attila University (now University of Szeged) in 1960 and obtained an MSc as a teacher of biology and geography in 1965. In the same year she was employed at the university as a trainee in economic geography until 1966 when she obtained the University Doctor degree. Between 1966 and 1970 she took up her career as a scientific researcher at the Department of Economic Geography and from 1970 until 1972 at the Department of Climatology. In 1972 she became assistant professor at the Department of Physical Geography, where she worked as lecturer from 1974 and senior lecturer from 1983 after obtained her PhD in 1982. In the period of 1983-95 she was vice-head, while between 1992 and 1993 delegated head of the same department. In 1995 she was appointed as head of the Department of Climatology and Landscape Ecology and got it until 2006. Her habilitation took place in 1996 in Szeged and she earned the Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences degree in 2003 therefore she became the first woman geographer ever receiving such a degree in Hungary. She took over as head of the Geo Departments in 1998 and held that position until 2003.



Professor Ilona Bárány-Kevei

She has been continuously teaching at the University of Szeged for more than 40 years. She either leads or takes part in such main modules and courses like Soil Geography, Biogeography, Climate and Morphology, Landscape Ecology and Planning, Geomorphology, Environmental Protection as well as Karstecology on both graduate and postgraduate levels. She is also head of the 'Geoecology' PhD program in the Doctoral School of Geosciences. She presented lectures at summer schools, led field trips and field works, as well as took part in numerous international conferences.

The wide range of her research activities like investigations in the fields of karst morphology and ecology, geo- and landscape ecology, environmental changes and their impacts on karst surfaces, landscape protection as well as the utilization possibilities of such alternative energy resources as wind in Southeast Hungary has to be especially emphasized. Her scientific works include more than 170 studies, 4 books, several research reports and articles.

Additionally, several memberships of both Hungarian and international scientific committees and societies (e.g. member of the IGU Karst Commission, elected member of the geography committee at the Academy, head of Environmental Sciences committee of

the Academy in Szeged, head of Hungarian Geography Society in Szeged etc.) prove her exceptional scientific activity.

As a recognition of her excellence in teaching and research she received the price 'For Excellent Work' in 1982, 'Pro Scientia' medal in 1989, 'Pro Geographia' in 1996, the 'Széchenyi István Fellowship' in 1999-2002, 'Master Teacher' in 2001, 'For Hungary with Science' and 'For Higher Education' medals in 2002. In respect of her merits in science and teaching, in 2004 she was awarded the 'Golden Cross of Distinction of the Hungarian Republic'. Recently she received 'Lóczy Lajos' medal in 2009 and 'Prinz Gyula' medal in 2010 for her activity in geography, as well as 'Klebersberg Kunó Award' in 2010 for her activity at the university.

We dedicate this anniversary not only to the appraisal of her scientific merits – it is to be hoped lots of others will do it several times anyway but also we would like to express our respect over the immense work she spent on the numerous Master and doctoral students and colleagues – their success also reflects credit on her, the supportive teacher, whose countenance provided hundreds of former students with degrees, research places and other relevant jobs. We all hope that her scientific-educational activity continues despite her retirement still for a long period of time.

Happy Birthday to Ilona Bárány-Kevei and God bless her on her 70th anniversary.

*Her colleagues from the Department of Climatology
and Landscape Ecology, University of Szeged*