

IN MEMORIAM PROF. GYÖRGY KOPPÁNY

The retired professor of our department, Dr. György Koppány passed away on 13 April 2016, in the 84th year of his life.

He was born on 31 March 1932 in Bajmok, in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. He started his grammar school studies in Subotica and continued them in Hungary from 1948.

He graduated as a meteorologist in 1956 from Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest and in September the same year he got a job at the Hungarian Meteorological Institute. From the beginning his interest turned to the macro-scale, hemispheric atmospheric processes that cause fundamental and long-term changes in Hungary's weather. From 1957 his studies have been published in the journal *Időjárás*, and later in different referred journals. In 1963 he received university doctorate degree defending his dissertation of the title "The 24-hour strong changes in the atmospheric pressure in the area between the Rocky Mountains and Western Siberia". In 1966 he got a one-year United Nations scholarship. In this context, he spent 6 months in the Soviet Union and 6 months in the United States studying the Soviet and American long-term prognostic methods.



75-year-old greeting (Department of Climatology and Landscape Ecology, 2007)

In 1985 he was declared Doctor of the Geographical Sciences (Meteorology). His doctoral dissertation dealt with the long-term predictability of the weather. In 1986 he was appointed professor, and Head of Department in Szeged, at the Department of Climatology, József Attila University (in 2000 renamed University of Szeged). After his appointment, in addition to traditional meteorological and climatological subjects new directions appeared in both research and education at the department, such as renewable energy sources and historical climatology. He published several textbooks in these subjects (e.g. *Atmospheric Resources*, JATE, Szeged, 1989; *Will the Earth Remain Habitable?* Academic Publishers, Budapest, 1993; *Introduction to the Paleoclimatology*, JATEPress, Szeged, 1996).

In the early 90s his research interest was directed to the development of a method by which drought in the following year could be predicted. In order to quantify drought he applied Pálfai's index because its physical dimensions are the temperature and precipitation therefore it is climatologically meaningful. He led the department until 1995. He retired in 1998, but did not cut ties with the university; he held optional lessons, educational lectures and shared his thoughts related to some problems of humanity's future in another book (Foresight, divination and meteorology, Book Masters 2002 Publishing House, 2010).

During the whole of his career he was an active member of the Hungarian Meteorological Society. He was the secretary of the Society from 1957 until 1966. In 1987 he was awarded the Lajos Steiner Memorial Medal, rewarding outstandingly successful academic and social work over a long period in the Society. In 2006 he was elected to the Honorary Members of the Society. For his internationally recognized and long-term climate-related literature activities he was awarded the Kabos Hegyfok Memorial Medal in 2012.



Between Dr. Pál Ambrózy and Academician Dr. György Major (Hungarian Academy of Science, 2011)



Christmas Party (Department of Climatology and Landscape Ecology, 2013)

In 1974 he became a member of the Climatological Subcommittee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences for several years. In 2002 he received the Guidó Schenzl Award from the Environmental Secretary in recognition of his meteorological activities.

A Memorial Mass was celebrated in honor of him, in the Cathedral of Szeged, 30th April 2016. We keep his memory in our thoughts, may he rest in peace!

*His former colleagues
Department of Climatology and Landscape Ecology, University of Szeged*