



“Gheorghe Asachi” Technical University of Iasi, Romania



In Memoriam

**PROFESSOR MATEI MACOVEANU, PhD ENG.
FOUNDER OF THE SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
AND MANAGEMENT AT THE *GHEORGHE ASACHI* TECHNICAL
UNIVERSITY OF IASI, ROMANIA**



On August 13th 2014, Professor Matei Macoveanu passed away at the age of 70.

Unfortunately, an unexpected health problem ended a distinguished career in teaching, research and professional practice, which was spanned more than 42 years dedicated to chemical and environmental engineering within the *Gheorghe Asachi* Technical University of Iasi.

Professor Matei Macoveanu was born on September 8th 1944 in Călărași, a region located in the Danube River area, in the South Eastern part of Romania.

During 1962-1967 he studied at the *Gheorghe Asachi* Polytechnic Institute of Iasi, Faculty

of Industrial Chemistry and, in 1967 he earned his undergraduate degree in chemical engineering. Since 1967, he acted as a member of the Academic Staff of the Faculty of Industrial Chemistry at the *Gheorghe Asachi* Technical University of Iasi.

In 1977, Professor Matei Macoveanu defended his PhD thesis, in the field of macromolecular compounds technology at the *Gheorghe Asachi* Technical University of Iasi under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Doc. Simon Fisel.

In 1990, Professor Macoveanu became Vice-Rector of the *Gheorghe Asachi* Technical University of Iasi. In 1992, he was elected as the Head of the Department of General Chemical Technologies, which became later the Department of Environmental Engineering. Starting from this moment, the research and teaching activity continued in the classic tradition, but being mainly focused on the environmental issues. Following the long and famous tradition in the field of chemical engineering, developed during time by professors with high international reputation from the *Gheorghe Asachi* Technical University of Iasi, Professor Macoveanu founded and promoted teaching and research in **environmental engineering and management** in Iași, within the Department of Environmental Engineering and Management of the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Environmental Protection. As the head of this department, Professor Matei Macoveanu was very proficient in solving the administrative, teaching and scientific problems, as a responsible manager as well as an excellent mentor.

The excellent management of Prof. Macoveanu and his cooperation with the members of the department led to major accomplishments in both

scientific and teaching areas, so that the teaching and research programs developed in the Department of Environmental Engineering and Management was ranked, in 2011, in the top of the Environmental Sciences and Engineering programs existing in the Romanian universities.

Also, Prof. Macoveanu had the ability to coordinate research projects in both chemical and environmental engineering fields addressing mathematical modeling and optimization of processes; impact assessment and environmental auditing; environmental and chemical technologies etc. His works include many aspects regarding design and optimal operation of chemical and environmental processes.

Professor Matei Macoveanu went through his life on a special road, which was not every time like a "highway with green lights", but in any conditions he remained committed to its principles and plans associated with the activity in the department he founded. This led to a global construction developed together with his colleagues.

His dreams became a reality only with his powerful work and implication, as the founder of school of environmental science and engineering in Iasi, by combining the environmental aspects with chemistry and chemical engineering. From this point of view, Professor Matei Macoveanu generated and opened numerous cross-border and international collaboration opportunities, with high impact for the future.

All these are supported by an exceptional scientific activity done by Professor Macoveanu in his career, which could be summarized in publishing of more than 300 scientific articles, from which 88 are ISI papers and over 800 citations in ISI journals. All together led to a Hirsh index of 16 (Scopus Data Base from August 15, 2014). Their scientific achievements were not limited only to scientific publications, but these are embodied in over 200 research contracts with different partners, especially with industrial and private companies. Also, other 35 research grants were earned by national and international competitions.

The list of scientific achievements could extend to dozens of studies and scientific research rapports, handbooks, monographs, patents, awarded at national and international exhibitions. Great contributions toward teaching activities were brought by elaboration of many manuals and teaching materials prepared for students, which were enrolled in the new programs of environmental studies for undergraduate and master degree level.

In 2009, Prof. Macoveanu was retired, but still continued his activity as an emeritus professor within the Department of Environmental Engineering and Management of the Faculty of Chemical

Engineering and Environmental Protection of the *Gheorghe Asachi* Technical University of Iasi, Romania.

Professor Matei Macoveanu was attached, very strong and unconditionally, of his profession. Therefore, other multiple achievements were accomplished during his teaching and scientific career, from which a very short selection of the most significant will be mentioned:

- curriculum developer and organizer of teaching program for the specialization *Technology and Biotechnology of Environmental Protection (currently Engineering and Environmental Protection in Industry)* for undergraduate studies for engineers (operational since 1994);

- organizer of the accreditation process of the program associated to the specialization *Engineering and Environmental Protection in Industry* in the Technical University of Iasi by the Romanian Governmental Authority, in December 2007;

- curriculum developer and organizer of the teaching program for postgraduate specialization, in the frame of master program *Environmental Management* (operational since 1999);

- curriculum developer and organizer of 9 post-graduate courses, accredited by the Romanian Governmental Authority;

- founder (in 2001) and director of the accredited Research Center *Environmental Engineering and Impact Assessment*

- founder (in 1996) and president of the association *Academic Organization of Environmental Engineering and Sustainable Development*;

- founder (in 2002) and Editor-in-Chief of the international academic journal *Environmental Engineering and Management Journal*, which currently appears in 12 issues per year since 2010, and is recognized as ISI journal since 2007 (impact factor in 2012 was 1.258).

- founder (in 2002) of the *International Conference on Environmental Engineering and Management (ICEEM)*, and Chairman of the first to sixth editions of this conference (ICEEM01-ICEEM06);

- expert of the University Research Council from Romania and Republic of Moldova;

- certified evaluator for *Environmental Impact Studies* and Auditor for *Environmental Management Systems*;

- member of the Editorial Committees and Scientific Advisory Board of various international journals;

- PhD supervisor of 33 PhD theses, with subjects in both chemical and environmental engineering.

Chemical and Environmental Engineering fields in Romania were doubtless strengthened by the important and continuing research performed and supervised by Prof. Matei Macoveanu.

In addition to his professional contributions, Prof. Matei Macoveanu will always be remembered by those who knew him for his vibrant, enthusiastic, cheerful and outgoing personality, warm friendship and helpfulness to his colleagues, friends and students.

In 2014, on September 8, Professor Matei Macoveanu, would have been 70 years old!

We are all grateful to him, as one of our most esteemed colleagues, for all his contributions in science and teaching and are deeply saddened by his departure.

May he rest in peace!

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