



**“Gh. Asachi” Technical University of Iasi, Romania**

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### *Events*

## **DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA TITLE AWARDED TO PROFESSOR PETER A. WILDERER FROM THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH, GERMANY**

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Recently, the Senate of the “Gh. Asachi” Technical University of Iasi decided unanimously to award the *Doctor Honoris Causa* title to Prof.dr.eng. Dr.h.c. PETER A. WILDERER, director of the Institute for Water Quality Control and Waste Management and senior staff member of the Technical University of Munich, Germany. The ceremony took place in the Aula of the Technical University on May 22, 2003 and it was an event that marked the acknowledgement of the remarkable scientific merits and contributions brought by Professor Wilderer to the development of Environmental Engineering and Management. The proposal for the Dr.h.c. award was initiated by the Department of Environmental Engineering, based on the existing co-operations with Professor Peter A. Wilderer.

Professor Wilderer graduated in 1965 the Faculty of Civil Engineering at the University of Karlsruhe, and has obtained his Ph.D. with *summa cum laude* at the same University in 1969. Since 1967 until 1982, Professor Wilderer worked in fundamental and applied research projects and also held courses in the fields of Aquatic ecology, Water quality control and Biological wastewater treatment.

In 1980, he joined for one year the research group of Prof. Edward D. Schroeder and George Tchobanoglous as visiting professor at the University of California Davis, USA. During this period the main researches were conducted to explore possibilities of feeding animals with biomass harvested from wastewater treatment plants treating wastewater from food processing industries.

In 1982, Professor Wilderer joined the faculty of the Technical University of Hamburg-Harburg, Germany, where he established the research department on Environmental Science and Technology, and worked out the curriculum for the courses in Civil and Environmental Engineering, being elected in 1990 as Vice President of this university.

In 1990, Professor Peter A. Wilderer was invited to take over the chair of the Institute for Water Quality Control and Waste Management of the Technical University of Munich, being at the same time staff member of the Department of Civil and Geodetical Engineering of this University. In 1991, he was elected as director of the Bavarian Research Network on Waste Research and Residual Management (BayFORREST), an institution that coordinates research on sustainable material flux management in Bavaria.

Professor Wilderer has been appointed in important international scientific committees and has been awarded the *Doctor Honoris Causa* Title at University of Chemical Technology in Prague (1997) and *Honorary Professor* at the University of Queensland, Australia. He is/was also acting as *Editor in Chief* for prestigious international journals such as: *Water Science and Technology*, *Water Research*, *Water and Environmental Management Series*.

There are an impressive number of books, papers published in prestigious scientific journals or presented at international conferences and other publications that illustrate the scientific achievements and prove that Professor Wilderer's name is always associated with high scientific standards, very thorough analysis and realistic proposals for technical solutions. His main research contributions focus on various subjects of the environmental engineering and management fields, i.e. sequencing batch reactors, biofilm technology, aerobic granular activated sludge and anaerobic treatment, design and optimisation of process conditions for increasing biological wastewater treatment performances, treatment of industrial wastewaters and hazardous landfill leachates, decentralized sanitation and reuse technologies.

Professor Wilderer's contributions in the fields of water resources management, wastewater treatment, waste minimization are based on a *sustainable approach*, i.e. the consideration of complex relationships between the environmental factors and ecological systems of different complexities (bioreactors, municipality, river catchment area) and a deep concern for the human quality of life.

On March 21, 2003 Professor Peter A. Wilderer was announced by the Stockholm International Water Institute to be the 2003 Stockholm Water Prize Laureate for: "*The development and demonstration of integrative approaches to water and wastewater management across the spectrum of fundamental research, applied research, technology implementation and sustainable water management*".

Sustainability was also one of the key concepts for the two conferences that were held by Professor Wilderer with the occasion of the *Doctor Honoris Causa* Ceremony and at the Faculty of Industrial Chemistry, sustainability in terms of research programs that are focussed on environmental protection and educational activities related to the Environmental Science and Technology fields. His work and efforts in pursuit of sustainable water use and sanitation gathered around many scientists from different countries and can help in achieving the UN's goal of halving the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation by 2015. Professor Wilderer was the initiator of a major international program on water-related risk management in the Danube river basin aiming to develop adequate measures in order to detect, avoid and counteract disastrous events concerning flooding and accidental pollution.

*Events: Doctor Honoris Causa title awarded to professor Peter A. Wilderer*

Professor Peter Wilderer is a member of the International Advisory Board of the *Environmental Engineering and Management Journal*, and cooperates with the Department of Environmental Engineering in the framework of the Socrates/Erasmus Program (“*Sustainable wastewater engineering and management practices*”) and for the development of the Integrated Project “*Flood Related Environmental Risk Management in the Danube River Basin*” (FP 6).

During his visit at the „Gh.Asachi” Technical University of Iasi, Professor Peter Wilderer had meetings with staff members and students of the Environmental Engineering and other Departments of the Technical University of Iasi. Apart from Professor Wilderer’s scientific profile and educational contributions to the environmental disciplines, his profound modesty and opening towards the international scientific community as well as the preoccupation to work for the benefit of humanity are impressive for all his collocutors.

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