

## News

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## Seventieth Birthday of Doc. Ing. Dr. Jiří Beneš, DrSc.

Jiří Beneš, Doctor of Science, an outstanding Czech expert in engineering cybernetics, has reached seventy years of age on May 6, 1991.

Born in Prague, he graduated there from the French Lyceum in 1939 and entered the Czech Technical University for studies in electrical engineering. Since the Czech universities were closed in November 1939, he spent several years in industry. After the Second World War he continued his studies at the Czech Technical University and also served as a teaching assistant. He received Ing. degree in 1947, in 1947—1951 he worked as an electrical machine designer and continued his scientific activity in the theory of servomechanisms. For this work he was awarded by Dr. techn. degree in 1950.

In 1953 he began his part time teaching at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering of the Czech Technical University which he performed till 1977. From 1956 Doctor Beneš was with the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. In 1958 he received the CSc. degree in automatic control from the Academy for his thesis on statistical dynamics of servomechanisms, in 1962 the title "Docent habil. in Automatic Control and Measurement" from the Czech Technical University and, finally, in 1967 the DrSc. degree from the Moscow Energetic Institute for his work on systems with automatic control of structure. Academic year 1960/61 spent Doctor Beneš with the Institut Henri Poincaré in Paris where he studied self-organizing systems.

Doctor Beneš published more than 60 original research papers and several monographs (some of them were translated into foreign languages). His first book "Statistical Dynamics of Automatic Control Systems" was translated into English and French and is cited up to now.

The research interests of Doctor Beneš have shifted from the theory of servomechanisms to modern aspects of system theory and include automatic control of structure of complex systems and probabilistic aspects of the control of large-scale systems. In 1965—1970 he was member of the editorial board of *Kybernetika* and during 1978—1988 of *Problems of Control and Information Theory*. He was also founder and head of the research group at the Institute of Information Theory and Automation specializing in the large-scale systems control. He organized four international symposia on large-scale systems control and served as a scientific editor of the symposium proceedings. In 1979 he received "First Prize Norbert Wiener Award" in the Second International Competition organized by the British journal *Kybernetes*.

Doctor Beneš was very active in international scientific cooperations. Due to his profound knowledge of several languages, wide and deep scientific and engineering education, he became one of the most active people in the International Federation of Automatic Control (IFAC). In fact he represented Czechoslovak scientists in IFAC for many years and served IFAC in many capacities: for the period 1969—1972 he was elected the IFAC 2nd Vice-President. For his merits he was honoured by the title "Advisor for Life" and in 1990 he received the IFAC "Outstanding Service Award".

For his contribution Doctor Beneš is recognized as a great pioneer of engineering cybernetics in Czechoslovakia. We wish him many happy returns of this day and many success in his further professional and personal activities.

*Pavel Kolář, Karel Sladký*