

IN MEMORIAM

BÁLINT GÁBOR

(Dunaharaszti, 31st March, 1950.- Budapest,
30th January 2014.)

Died at 64 years, the VITUKI's branch
manager and senior research fellow



Gábor Bálint after the elementary and high school years, between 1968-1973, received hydrologists engineering degree at the University of Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) in the Hydrometeorological Engineering Faculty, Hydrology Department, Continental Hydrology field, which has been in 1974 introduced as a hydraulic engineering diploma at the Budapest Technical University, Civil Engineering Faculty.

For four decades (1973-2013) he worked uninterruptedly for the Hungarian Environmental and Water Management Research Institute (VITUKI) and the National Water Prediction Service (OVSZ) as a research assistant, and then as an associate and in a senior researcher positions. Between 1990 and 2008 he is the head deputy and then the department head of the National Water Prediction Service (OVSZ). From 2008, he became the director of the VITUKI's surface water sub-sector.

At the National Water Prediction Service he was the manager of the hydrological and meteorological data collection and the daily forecast. He took part in the development of predictive models, which are in use till today. Contributed to the Hungarian rivers flood levels determination and various hydro-meteorological studies.

Contributed or he was responsible for a number of VITUKI studies and projects examples: Somes and Drava Prediction Development (1978-79), the Central and Eastern Europe's water balance maps compilation (1979-80), the development of rainfall runoff models (1980-1985), the remote sensing hydrological use program (1986-87) rainfall runoff models evaluation and application (1986-1990), the examination of the extreme rainfall caused floods (1997). He was project manager of several international projects, such as the project of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research Examining the Kuwait City surface water supply (1985), technical assessment of the Eastern European

countries evaporation network (1986-1991). He was also expert on PHARE projects, including the 905/W "Development of Surface Water Monitoring Based on the EU Practice in Hungary " project (1995-1996).

From 1993 he collaborated and was responsible for several climate change hydrological consequences testing study. In recent years he contributed to the IPCC climate change report hydrological chapter.

Professional results of his work were published in several dozen high-quality communications in national and international scientific conferences. He didn't publish only in hydrological journals, but also in science popularizing journals, for example "Élet és Tudomány" (Hungarian - Life and Science).

His extensive professional knowledge, excellent language skills (he spoke English and Russian well, and he also possessed German, Lithuanian, Polish language skills), and thanks to his participation in several international projects in recent decades he become one of the internationally best-known Hungarian hydrology specialist.

For many years he taught the hydrological forecasting and modeling objects at the ELTE (Eötvös Loránd University) and BME (Budapest University of Technology and Economics). At the National Water Directorate many graduate students participated at practice and made their diploma thesis, he was also a senior at the Baja Water Academy (1972-1989). From 1980 and for several years he was professor at the Budapest UNESCO International Post Graduate Courses in Hydrology. His abroad activity was diverse in 1984 in Kuwait, in 1985 in Finland (Helsinki), in 1989 in Canada and in 1990 in Holland at Wageningen Agricultural University as visiting researcher and guest lecturer.

In 1993, he was sent as expert at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Hydrology and Water Resources Department in Geneva. In 1995 he was a guest lecturer at the Faculty of Geography of the Babes-Bolyai University for a few semesters. Also in 1995 he was the seconded expert in the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Caspian Sea Project.

Since 1985 he was an active member of the Hungarian Hydrological Society. He held several lectures and organized lecture meetings for the society. Among them the joint Hungarian Hydrological Society and Hungarian Meteorological Society lecture meetings held in every two years were very successful.

Between 1990-2002 he is member of the Hungarian Hydrological Society International Relations Committee and since 2004 the member of the Hydraulic and Hydrological Engineering Department leadership. In 1999 he was awarded with the Vitális Sándor award and in 2011 the Pro Aqua award.

He was a member of the Hungarian Meteorological Society and the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS) as well.

Dr. Konecsny Karoly