



Prof. Dr. Habil. Jonas SAPRAGONAS

1942–2013

In 2013, 21 January we lost Professor Jonas Sapragonas of Kaunas University of Technology, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Mechatronics who was involved in the scientific journal “Mechanika” as the Deputy Chief Editor since its publishing initiation in 1995.

A subtle Lowlander’s character began to emerge in his native Papilė (born in 1942 08 19, in Akmenės d.), where people lacked neither diligence nor spirituality. In 1959 having graduated from Rietavas secondary school he became connected with the activities of engineer and scientist – having graduated from Kaunas Polytechnic Institute, the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and acquired qualification of mechanical engineer (in 1964), he started working as an assistant in the Department of Strength of Materials, where during the period 1967 – 1970 studied the postgraduate course. The talented and promising young scientist in 1970 defended his candidate (doctor) dissertation of technical sciences (PhD), in 1973 was invited to work in the Department of Machine Tools, since 1975 – in Associate Professor Position. Lowlands’ perseverance and obstinacy like an engine drove into broader waters and unfamiliar fields – internship at the Paris Higher Industrial School of Physics and Chemistry (1977-1978, France), active scientific work in research of mechanical features of polymers and composites allows to achieve significant scientific results in this field – in 1993 he defended habilitated doctor dissertation. In 1995 he was granted academic rank of professor, while entering a new phase of scientific work – the work in Faculty of Mechanical and Mechatronics at Department of Transport Engineering bringing together the affinity group working in Transport Engineering and Technology field – Head of Department of Transport

Engineering (1998 – 2008), Director of the Institute of Transport Problems.

As the Real Member of Lithuanian Academy of Sciences (Technical Sciences) he has been an active researcher, member and opponent of many Dissertation Defence Boards, a member of habilitation committees. Under his leadership eight doctoral students in 2000 – 2011 successfully defended doctoral theses in Transport Engineering field. He has been a supervisor of number of undergraduate and graduate thesis, an active participant in the evaluation of these works. He published more than 120 scientific papers, six inventions, one monograph, was an author and co-author of 9 textbooks and teaching aids. The professor was an active participant in improving the quality of learning process – Vice-Dean of the Faculty, member of the Senate, Member of Faculty Council, as an expert of Assessment of Quality of Studies he participated in external evaluation of studies programs, was an author of regulation of Transport Engineering.

The legacy of respectable and full of creative impetus personality – the World built by wisdom and experience – impeccable academic activities and dedication to science, assistance to young colleagues when they enter complex way of scientific searches, wisdom and knowledge reflected in books, lectures, and other academic works.

The academic community of Kaunas University of Technology, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Mechatronics and the editorial board of the scientific journal “Mechanika”