

In memoriam Marija Kosec

Professor Dr. Marija Kosec passed away after a brief and serious illness on 23 December 2012.



Professor Marija Kosec was a very active and strong supporter of Society for Microelectronics, Electronic Components and Materials MIDEM and its long-term member. In the years 1996-2005 she was the President, and in the periods 1989-1996 and 2005-2011 the Vice-President of the society.

She studied chemical technology at the University of Ljubljana and obtained a PhD degree in chemistry in 1982. Since 1971 she was employed at the Jožef Stefan Institute, and since 2002 she was Head of the Electronic Ceramics Department. In 2007 – 09 she was the President of the Scientific Council of Jožef Stefan Institute.

In the years 2004 – 09 she was leading the Centre of Excellence Materials for electronics of next generations and other emerging technologies and since 2009 the Centre of Excellence Advanced Materials and Technologies for the Future NAMASTE.

Since 1999 she was Professor of Materials Science at the University of Ljubljana and the vice-president of Jožef Stefan Postgraduate School. She was visiting professor at Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland, Shizuoka University, Japan and for short periods

at a number of other schools. She was Adjunct Professor at Xi'an Jiaotong University, China.

She was the only female member of Slovenian Academy of Engineering since its establishment in 1995 and in 2005 – 06 its President.

Prof. Kosec supported the European Cooperation in Science and Technology framework COST for many years, actively participating in COST Actions since 1991. Until 2010 she represented Slovenia in the COST Materials Nanosciences Physics Domain Committee (MPNS DC). In 2010 she was nominated MPNS DC expert for Slovenia.

Since 1999 she was the member of the European Liaison Committee of International Microelectronics and Packaging Society and since 2001 the member of the Ferroelectrics Committee at IEEE.

Prof. Kosec was Ambassador of Science of Republic of Slovenia (2003). She was the recipient of the Zois award, the highest national science award in 2006. In 2009 she received Puh recognition for the implementation of research results in industry.

In 2010 she received the Ferroelectrics Recognition Award, IEEE Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics, and Frequency Control Society for her significant contributions to the processing science and technology of ferroelectric powders, bulk ceramics, thin and thick films.

Her research interest was in synthesis and characterization of electronic ceramics, particularly piezoelectrics and ferroelectrics in bulk, thin and thick film form. Her contribution to science was in understanding phenomena of ceramics processing of application-important multi-component systems. Her mission was to merge basic research with applied research and development. She participated, as member or principal investigator, in more than 20 European framework or international projects and she had more than 40 contracts with industry.

She was author or co-author of more than 300 scientific papers in international journals with more than 2000 citations. She gave more than 150 invited talks at international conferences and at different research institutions including Max Planck Institut, MIT, Tokyo Institute of Technology, and at important Japanese producers of electronic components including Murata, TDK, Panasonic and Toshiba.

She chaired the international conference Electroceramics VII in 2000, the European conference Processing of

Electroceramics in 2003 and the 4th European Microelectronics and Packaging Symposium in 2006.

In an effort to strengthen the cooperation between science and industry she organized, together with the Technology Centre SEMTO, a series of meetings where researchers, developers and users could present results, discuss, and exchange ideas. In 2012 she was the chair of the 48th International Conference on Microelectronics, Devices and Materials with the Workshop on Ceramic Microsystems and she managed to attract many participants from Slovenian industry.

The world of science lost not only a great scientist, but also a woman who was able to accept challenges and solve them with optimism and a positive approach. One of her acquaintances from abroad wrote that she was a sunny personality. Professor Marija Kosec was, if I may borrow the words of the current President of the MIDEM Society, Professor Marko Topič, a bright star in the sky of Slovenian science.

She will be missed by her colleagues and friends both at home and in the international communities.

Prof. Dr. Barbara Malič
Jožef Stefan Institute