

IN MEMORY OF DR. TIBOR BOLDIZSAR (1913 - 1998)



Tibor Boldizsar, the “Father” of direct-use geothermal development in Hungary, died in Budapest on November 26, 1998, at the age of 85. He was born in Budapest on June 9, 1913. In 1931, he matriculated at the Hungarian Royal University of Mining and Forestry Engineer. He received his Ph.D. in 1952 and a Doctor of Science degree in 1956. From 1936 to 1944, he worked for the First Danube Shipping Company as a mining captain and mining engineer near the city of Pecs. He was the chief mining engineer at the Hungarian Bauxite Co., Inc., from 1945-46, and was then nominated to be the managing chief engineer of the Hungarian National Coal Mines Co., Inc., in Budapest. From 1949-50, he was head of the department at the Mining Research Institute, and in 1952 became professor and head of the department at the Polytechnical University of Heavy Industry. He was a professor at the University of Miskolc from 1959-80, and retired in 1980.

During his retirement, he had advisory functions at the Hungarian National Committee of Technical Development; Development Institute of the Mining Center; European Economic Committee of UNO (Geneva); the United Nations University, Tokyo; and the International School of Geothermics (IIRG), Pisa, Italy.

His main field of research and university teaching was on the organization and direction of mechanization of mining processes. He wrote a book on “Modern Mining Machinery,” and edited four volumes of the “Handbook of Mining,” including chapters on ventilation and geothermal heat recovery of deep mining operations. He published about 200 studies and articles, nine books or portions of them, and about 90 papers that were published in about 50 international periodicals. He also performed research and lectured on geothermal energy and vulcanology in California, Oregon, Hawaii, New Zealand, the Canary Islands and several universities in Europe.

He received a number of Hungarian and international decorations and certificates of merit. In 1979, he became a member of the New York Academy of Sciences; an honorary member of the American Geophysical Union in 1980; and a member of the American Institution of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers. In 1993, he was decorated with the Officer’s Insignia of the Republic of Hungary.

He was invited to make a presentation at the first U.S. geothermal direct-use conference on the Oregon Institute of Technology campus in October of 1974. At this conference, on the Multipurpose Use of Geothermal Energy; he presented a paper on “Geothermal Energy Use in Hungary.” He has also published papers on heat flow in the Hungarian Basin (Nature, Journal of Geophysical Research, and Bulletin of Volcanology) and on “Geothermal Energy Production from Porous Sediments in Hungary” in Geothermics Special Issue, Part 1 (the UN Symposium on the Development and Utilization of Geothermal Resources, Pisa in 1970). At that time, he was a member of the Geothermal Board in Budapest. His publications go back to at least 1968 in the geothermal field. The GHC Bulletin of October 1995 (Vol. 16, No. 4 - p. 1) has a photo of the presenters at the 1974 OIT conference with Dr. Boldizsar seated in the front row.

His contributions to the geothermal community will be missed. Our condolences to his wife, Viola, and to his family.