

Professor Ph.D. Nicolae Bâlbă on his 70th anniversary

We celebrate this year the 70th anniversary of the distinguished professor Nicolae Bâlbă, which, with energy and devotement, during 43 years developed a rich scientific and professional activity.

Professor Nicolae Bâlbă was born on December 15, 1939 in Mihăileni (Botoșani). He completed the primary school in Mihaileni and gymnasium at „Eudoxiu Hurmuzache” College of Radauti, graduating in 1957. In 1958, he became student of the Faculty of Chemistry, „Al.I.Cuza” University of Iasi, in the field of Organic Chemistry. He graduated in 1963 with general average of 10.00, obtaining the University Diploma in Organic Chemistry. The results achieved in professional studies, the seriousness and the disposition to scientific research highly recommended him for university career. In 1963 he was employed as preparer by „Al.I.Cuza” University, at the Department of Chemical Technology (Faculty of Chemistry). He obtained the title of Ph.D. in Chemistry in 1974 under the supervision of

Prof. eng. Vasile Ababi, Ph.D., with the thesis entitled „Synthesis and characterization of zeolites with high content of silicon”, which was an advanced subject in the domain of zeolite materials. Between November 1974 and August 1975 he was a post-doctoral scholar at the University of Texas, Department of Materials Science, under the supervision of Prof. Hugo Steinfink, in the domain of crystalline materials study by DRX method.

During 1963-1991 he was promoted on behalf of his scientific and didactic skills through all university career steps, being a full professor from 1991 to 2005, consulting professor in 2006 and retired from 2007. As professor, he organized and taught laboratory works, seminars and courses for disciplines such as Industrial Technology, Chemical Technology Basis and General Chemistry for textile engineers. In 1992 he proposed the course of Materials Science at the Faculty of Chemistry, course that he taught until 2005. He is author of 7 courses and 3 laboratory guides and problems. He is, also, author and co-author of 5 monographs in Publishing Houses: Zeolite Molecular Sieves (1986), Zeolites in Adsorption (2000), Catalysis Elements (2002), Ion Exchange Processes in Environment Protection (2002), Science and Engineering of Materials, Tom III- Modern Materials (2006).

On behalf of his scientific results in the domain of zeolite and zeotypic porous materials, in 1990 he received the title of supervisor in the domain of Materials Science (re-confirmed in 1994). He supervised 8 Ph.D. theses, from which 2 in co-tutelage with the Universita dela Calabria, Rende, Italy (Prof. Alfonso Nastro) and the University of Antwerp, Belgium (Prof. Ettiene Vansant). As Ph.D supervisor he was member of several Ph.D. Committees in Romania and Republic of Moldova.

In his scientific research work he was preoccupied by themes with a scientific and practice interest such as liquid-liquid and liquid-vapour equilibrium in binary and ternary systems and synthesis, characterization and uses of micro- and mesoporous zeolite and non-zeolite materials: catalysts, adsorbents and ion-exchangers.

He published more than 200 scientific papers in ISI international journals (Microporous and Mesoporous Materials, Journal of Applied Polymer Science, Polymer Degradation and Stability, Journal of Porous Materials, Journal of Radioanalytical and Nuclear Chemistry, Studies in Surface Science and Catalysis, Solvent Extraction and Ion Exchange, Central European Journal of Chemistry, Journal of Molecular Catalysis, Microporous Materials, Journal of Thermal Analysis, Thermochimica Acta, Rapid Communications in Mass Spectrometry, Catalysis Communications, Journal of Thermal analysis and Calorimetry), ISI Romanian journals (Revista de Chimie, Revue Roumaine de Chimie, Environmental Engineering and Management Journal, Cellulose Chemistry and Technology, Materiale Plastice), B- and C-type CNCSIS journals (Anale științifice ale Univ."Al.I.Cuza", Buletinul științific al Univ. Tehnice „Gh.Asachi”, Romanian Chemical Quarterly Review, Celuloză și Hârtie, Materiale de Construcții, Industria Ușoară) and also in the volumes of several national and international conferences and symposiums. The interest of the scientific community for these papers is shown by the 210 citations reports (47 in 2009).

Practical research is represented by 53 scientific research grants with economic agencies, 4 scientific CNCSIS grants as Project Manager or member in the research team and also in the 20 patents at OSIM. In 1996 he

obtained the Gold Medal at the 45th Word Inventions Exhibitions in Bruxelles (EUREKA, 96) with the patent RO 110809/1996.

He was an active participant at scientific conferences organized by IZA IZA (Garmisek – Partenkirsten, Germany, 1994; Baltimore, SUA, 1998; Montpellier, France, 2001; Cape Town, South Africa, 2004; Beijing, China, 2007), FEZA (Taormina, Italy, 2002; Praga, Cehia, 2005; Paris, France, 2008) and other international conferences (Yaroslavl, Rusia, 1992; Berlin – Adlershop, 1996; Ischia, Italy, 2002; Chalkidiki, Greece, 1998; Ioanina, Greece, 2001; Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 2002; Alicante, Spain, 2004, etc). He was member in the International Advisory Board to the 12th IZC – Baltimore, USA, 5-10 July, 1998 and visiting professor at Universita della Calabria, Rende, Italy (2000) and at University of Antwerpen, Belgium (2005).

The published scientific papers, especially after 1990 and his expertise recommended him as reviewer at several international journals (J. Appl. Polym. Sci, Sep. Sci. Technol., Micropor. Mesopor. Mater, IPJ, JEM, Scientia Iranica). He was also Reviewer Expert at MCT and CNCSIS.

During 1996-2005 he was Head of Department (Chemical Technology and Materials Chemistry) and member of the Professorial Council of the Faculty of Chemistry. As head of department he showed qualities such as organizing spirit, cooperation and collaboration with all his colleagues from the faculty. He promoted for the inclusion of the disciplines “Applied Chemistry” and “Materials Chemistry” in the curricula of the Faculty of Chemistry.

On the anniversary of his 70th, the colleagues from the Materials Chemistry Laboratory, Department of Chemistry, wish you good health, power, productive life and many professional achievements.