

Ioannis Vayas reaches 60



Prof. Ioannis Vayas

Prof. Dr.-Ing Dr. h.c. *Ioannis Vayas*, professor for steel structures at the National Technical University of Athens, Greece, celebrated his 60th birthday on 26 October 2013.

He was born in Athens and after completing his high school education at the German School of Athens in 1971 he studied civil engineering at the National Technical University of Athens, where he graduated in 1976. After graduation he moved to Germany, where he spent his first two years as research fellow at the Institute of Foundation Engineering and Soil Mechanics of the Technical University of Braunschweig. Then, luckily, he discovered the world of steel structures and has remained faithful to it till nowadays. From 1978 to 1981 he worked at the Institute of Steel Structures of the Technical University of Braunschweig, where in 1981 he defended his doctoral thesis on plate buckling problems under supervision of Prof. *Joachim Scheer*.

After serving military service in 1981-1983, he established his own design office and worked as design engineer, until in 1987 he joined the National Technical University of Athens as teacher. He became full professor in 2003 and Director of the Institute of Steel Structures in 2011.

Prof. *Vayas* is an outstanding researcher and an excellent engineer. He has always been able to combine these two fields in the best possible way. As researcher he is always looking for problems that are relevant for the engineering practice and as engineer he successfully applies new ideas and the knowledge

coming from research work. His research activities span from plate buckling problems, plastic resistance of cross-sections including torsion actions, low-cycle fatigue resistance of steel frames subjected to seismic actions, rotation capacity of beam-column joints, innovative dissipative devices in seismic resistant steel frames, numerical modelling of steel concrete composite bridges, etc.

As design engineer he has been involved in the design of residential, office and industrial buildings, composite bridges, towers, masts and other structures. He has employed all his experience from the research and engineering work in a number of books published in Greek, German and English. In Greek he published 8 books on steel and steel-concrete composite structures, including the application of Eurocode 3 and Eurocode 4. Three of these books were translated to German and published by Ernst & Sohn. They were well received, because they were equally appropriate for students and practising engineers mainly due to a large number of well selected numerical examples. His last book (in co-authorship with *A. Iliopoulos*) on Design of Steel-Concrete Composite Bridges to Eurocodes that was published this year by Taylor & Francis, represents a culmination of publishing activities of Prof. *Vayas*. The book brings very complete information on the design issues of steel-concrete composite bridges with a lot of detailed information on all relevant topics have so far not been available in one publication.

In 1997 the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania, awarded him an honorary doctorate for establishing a model cooperation between the two universities.

Those who have had the privilege to meet Prof. *Vayas* and work with him in European research projects, in CEN/TC 250/SC3 (Eurocode 3 Committee) or at the conferences know that he has a strong personality but at the same time a kind character. He has made a lot of friends all around Europe and when he was involved in an unfortunate dispute about the authorship of one of the text books (published in Greek by one of his academic colleagues), very prominent European academics without any hesitation took his side and helped to solve the case.

This is the opportunity that on behalf of all his friends and all those who appreciate Prof. *Ioannis Vayas* we wish him good health, and although the academic life in Greece has seen much better times, we wish him new excitements and challenges in his academic and professional life.

Prof. Darko Beg