



Professor Jan Dowgiałło (1932 – 2019)

Prof. Dowgiałło was one of the greatest Polish hydrogeologists also well-known abroad. He specialised in mineral, thermal and therapeutic waters. During his active professional career, prof. Dowgiałło published nearly 150 scientific publications including monographies and atlases, and ca. 250 reports, reviews and expertise.

Born on 29 February 1932 in the town of Nowomalin (Volynh region), the scientific career prof. Dowgiałło started in 1949 at the Faculty of Chemistry of the Gdańsk University of Technology. Jan left chemistry for geology in 1951, when he moved to Poznań to study at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the University of Poznań. He continued his studies at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the University of Wrocław, where in 1953 he obtained a master's degree in philosophy in the field of geology and paleontology. In 1956, Jan was accepted at the position of an assistant at the Faculty of Geology of the University of Warsaw, where he received his PhD degree in natural sciences in 1963. Meantime, in 1957 Jan started working for the State Enterprise "Technical Service of Health Resorts", supervised by the Ministry of Health, where he worked as the manager of the Geological Laboratory and later as the Deputy Chief Geologist of the Central Board of Health Resorts. After obtaining his PhD, Jan started working at the Balneoclimatic Institute as the head of the Geological Laboratory. In 1973, he obtained the postdoctoral degree in natural sciences at the Department of Geology and was appointed associate professor at the Balneoclimatic Institute. In January 1973, he started working at the Institute of the Geochemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences (ING PAN), as the head of the Hydrogeological Laboratory. In the years 1974-2014 he was a member and (periodically) the chairman of the Scientific Council of ING PAN. He finished his work at ING PAN in 2013. From 1957 to 2019 he was a member of the Hydrogeological Documentation Commission. Since 1981 a member of the Committee of Geological Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

During his long scientific career prof. Jan Dowgiałło participated in many international projects working for ONZ and WHO. He was also an academic teacher at the University of Bordeaux. For his merits for Poland he has been awarded many national awards including the Golden Cross of Merit (2006) and the Honoured for the Polish Hydrogeology medal (2016). Between 1990-1994 he performed the function of the Polish Ambassador in Israel.

For many years prof. Jan Dowgiałło was an active member of the International Association of Hydrogeologists, co-founder and chairman of the Commission on Thermal and Mineral Waters. For his achievements, he was awarded the Honorary Membership of the IAH.

Prof. Dowgiałło was active until his last days, working on scientific projects, mentoring students, planning new activities. He passed away on the 15th of May 2019 at the age of 87. R.I.P.

Prepared: Adam Porowski, Anna Kuczyńska, Polish National Chapter IAH