

In memoriam of Nenad Bićanić



We were shocked on receiving the tragic news that our mentor and colleague, Professor Nenad Bićanić, passed away on 08 October, 2016.

Nenad was born on 06 September, 1945, just a few weeks after the Second World War was ended. He graduated in 1968 from School of Civil Engineering, Zagreb University, in Croatia. His career started as a Structural Engineer, but soon he returned to the academic life, first to prepare his PhD at Swansea from 1976 to 1978, and then to teach at Zagreb University from 1978, where he remained until 1985. During this period, he formed long-lasting international contacts that greatly influenced his career. From 1985, he joined the academic staff at Swansea; this was the period when he became one of the most active scientists of the emerging field of Computational Mechanics. In 1994, he was offered the Regius Chair of Civil Engineering at the University of Glasgow. There he became more engaged in numerical modelling of structures and played a leading role in the spreading of the Discrete Element Method. He organised several conferences and meetings that gave inspiration for the development of the whole field of modern computational mechanics.

He retired from Glasgow in 2010, but this was just the beginning of another type of very active life. He joined the staff of Rijeka University in Croatia as a part-time Professor and continued to guide the first steps of young researchers in the world of science.

He was only 71 years old - admirably active and full of plans. We shall remember Nenad not just as a devoted, enthusiastic scientist with a huge knowledge but also as the most helpful mentor from whom we learned so much. We thank him for sharing his valuable knowledge and look forward for sharing with the next generations of engineers.

Katalin Bagi

Vasilis Sarhosis