

PROFESSOR NGUYEN VAN DAO IN OUR MEMORY

As scientist and as a person, Professor Nguyen Van Dao is kept in our memory. In many papers and letters of condolence there are expressed the heartfelt feelings of people who has a great chance to meet, to work and to collaborate with him.

In this Issue it is selected only the letter of Former Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, and the letters of condolence sent to the Editorial Board of Vietnam Journal of Mechanics from the international mechanicians.

Letter from the Former Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet

G.S.TS Nguyễn Văn Dao ra đi quá đột ngột, đúng vào giờ điểm đất nước đang 3^o thế phát triển, mà anh vẫn mong đợi và cũng là lúc anh có thể thực hiện nhiều ước mơ cống hiến với bao niềm tin, trải nghiệm cuộc đời.

Tôi đến thăm Chi và gia đình, thấy nên nhân cho anh, tôi thật xúc động bởi lòng và lương tri anh vô cùng một nhà trí thức lớn, đầy tâm huyết, nhiều ý tưởng, luôn sáng tạo và vươn lên. Tôi nhớ, ở phòng thí nghiệm hàng, anh đã mất nhiều giờ một năm, nhìn anh không làm việc và những cái vật chầy như anh vừa đi vắng, lâu lắm. Hồi nhớ lại, một hôm nào, tại nhà khách Hồ Tây, anh và mấy anh em khác còn say sưa loan vô, tôi nhớ trường Đại học tin học của công ty FPT...

G.S.TS Nguyễn Văn Dao ra đi không chỉ mất một chàng già trẻ đầy nhiệt huyết, thường đi với gia đình mà còn mất một mắt xích của đất nước vào đúng lúc rất cần những người như anh. Riêng tôi cũng mất đi một bạn có thể cùng chia sẻ những niềm vui, nỗi lo cho sự nghiệp, chúng tôi biết là sự nghiệp đã tạo ra con người.

Anh không còn nữa những những lần cũ anh đi lại như trường Đại học Quốc gia Hà Nội, với ý chí và những điều thật sự tốt đẹp mà bạn bè và người đồng nghiệp Việt anh sẽ còn mãi mãi...

Một lần nữa, xin được chia sẻ nỗi đau sâu sắc của Chi, các cháu và thân quyến.

Hà Nội, ngày 21 tháng 7 năm 2007
Kiet
Vo Van Kiet

Professor Doctor Nguyen Van Dao has passed away unexpectedly and unbelievably at the time when the country is in its advance which he has always hoped for, and when he could realize his dreams of making more contributions and experiences he had accumulate for life.

I call at his wife and family, and bum some incense before his altar. I am deeply moved and mourned over his death. He is a great intellectual full of fervour and noble ideas, full of creative spirit and has always tried to obtain what is new. I could not believe that he has passed away for nearly one year. Looking at his study and mementos, I have the impression that he has taken a stroll somewhere. I recall that some day ago, at the West Lake Guest House, he and some other friends discussed passionately with me about the FPT University of Informatics.

The passing away of Professor Doctor Nguyen Van Dao is not only an irreparable loss for him family, but also a great loss for the country at the moment when we badly need men like him. For me, I also lose a Friend, who could share my joys and worries for the common cause, in particular the cause of human training.

He is no longer with us, but the imprints he has left behind such as the Vietnam National University, Hanoi, his will and the real fine things which friends and people think of him shall remain forever.

One again, I wish to share your deep sorrow and that of your children and relatives.

Hanoi, July 21, 2007

(signed)

Vo Van Kiet



Discussions with Former Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet in Ho Chi Minh city, 2006

Letter from Academician Yu.A.Mitropolsky, Ukraine

Professor, Academician Nguyen Van Dao was tragically killed in Hanoi on December 11, 2006. Professor, Academician Nguyen Van Dao was born in August 10, 1937 in the Commune Chi-Tien, District Thanh-Ba, Province Phu-Tho, Vietnam and dedicated all his life to development of science, education and culture of Vietnamese people. Throughout his life Professor Nguyen Van Dao attained great achievements in the field of science and education of Vietnam. He was the President of the Scientific and Education Council of the Vietnam National University of Hanoi; Vice President and General Secretary of the National Center for Scientific Research of Vietnam; Chairman of the Natural Science Council, Ministry of Science and Technology.

Of great importance is his contribution to creation of scientific community to do research, education and application of mechanics in Vietnam. He was the Founding Director of the Institute of Mechanics; Head of the Department, Hanoi University of Technology; President-Founder of the Vietnam Association of Mechanics, the Founding Editor in Chief of the Editorial Board of Vietnam Journal of Mechanics, the Representative of the Vietnam Association of Mechanics in the International Union for Theoretical and Applied Mechanics.

The scientific activity of Professor Nguyen Van Dao was marked by obtaining important results in problems on interaction between nonlinear oscillating systems, non-linear dynamics and chaos as well as asymptotic methods for studying non-linear high degree systems. He published more than 1000 scientific works and monographs.

He was also famed for his public activity. He was the member of Presidium of the Central Committee of Vietnam Fatherland Front; Vice-President of Vietnam Peace Committee; President of Association for Liaison with Overseas Vietnamese.

The international activity of Professor Nguyen Van Dao was widely known and highly appreciated in Vietnam and worldwide. He is the Laureate of the Ho Chi Minh Prize in the field of Science and Technology, Ukraine National Prize in Science and Technology, the Holder of the 1-st degree Labor Medal, 2-nd degree Resistance Medal. He was elected as the Member of the III-d World Academy of Science; Member of the Czech Academy of Science; Member of Ukraine National Academy of Sciences.

Professor Nguyen Van Dao was exceptionally sweet and hospitable person. I got acquainted with him in 1961 when he first arrived in Kiev to attend the International conference and since then often met with him in Moscow and some cities of Europe including Warsaw, Prague, Berlin and others.

We had close cooperation in the field of mechanics (non-linear mechanics, dynamic systems). Since 1980 I have visited Vietnam 8 times and each arrival was like a festival. Nguyen Van Dao and his wife Tran-Kim-Chi always met me at the airport, we drove to a hotel where I would stay or they put me up.

The tragic death of Nguyen Van Dao will be immeasurable loss for Vietnamese science. As a scientist and a person he will always be within living memory and my memory in particular. It was Nguyen Van Dao that introduced me to many Vietnamese cities, their lovely sights and hard-working people which I loved so much.

The result of our close cooperation that lasted for more than 30 years was four generalized monographs devoted to nonlinear oscillating systems, numerous participation in various conferences and congresses where we would deliver talks.

*Prof. Yu.A.Mitropolsky, Academician of NAS of Ukraine
Institute of Mathematics, NASU
Ukraine*



Meeting with Academician Yu.A.Mitropolsky and
Prof. Nayfeh (U.S.A) in Hanoi, 2002

Letter from Prof. Dick H. van Campen

From: Campen, D.H. van [D.H.v.Campen@tue.nl]

Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2007 2:37 AM

To: nvdiiep@imech.ac.vn

Subject: RE: The death of Prof. Nguyen Van Dao

Dear Professor Nguyen Van Diep,

On behalf of IUTAM I express my condolences with the passing away of Professor Nguyen Van Dao.

Professor Van Dao has been of utmost importance for the development of mechanics in Vietnam.

Internationally he was highly esteemed and he was deeply involved in the connections of Vietnam to the international scientific community.

I continue to remember with very warm feelings the IUTAM Symposium in Hanoi in 1999 as an unforgettable event, which was so perfectly organized by Professor Van Dao.

Professor Nguyen Van Dao will be greatly missed, not only by the Vietnamese mechanics community, but by his many international friends and colleagues as well.

At the next IUTAM General Assembly in Adelaide, Australia, August 2008, a tribute will be paid to Professor Van Dao. This tribute will be recorded in the minutes of that General Assembly. These will be published in the IUTAM Report 2008 and on the IUTAM website.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dick H. van Campen
Secretary-General of IUTAM
Netherlands



Prof. Dick H. van Campen, Yu. A. Mitropolsky, F. L. Chernousko and others
at the IUTAM Symposium on Recent Developments
in Non-Linear Oscillations of Mechanical Systems, Hanoi, 2-5/3/1999

Letter from Academician Felix L. Chernousko

From: Felix L. Chernousko [chern@ipmnet.ru]

Sent: Monday, March 05, 2007 2:35 PM

To: nvdiep@imech.ac.vn

Subject: Re: The death of Prof. Nguyen Van Dao

Dear Professor Nguyen Van Diep,

I feel deep sorrow because of the tragic death of Professor Nguyen Van Dao.

I knew him for many years as a talented and active scientist and also as a bright personality.

He played a great role as a leading Vietnamese scientist in the field of mechanics. His international connections and activities in the world mechanical community were highly appreciated.

Professor Nguyen Van Dao often visited Russia, he was well-known and highly respected in our Institute.

I remember very well our friendly meetings both in Moscow and Hanoi.

Please pass my sincere condolences to his wife and family, and also to his colleagues.

Best regards,

***Prof. F. L. Chernousko, Academician of the RAS,
Director of the Institute for Problems in Mechanics, RAS,
Russia***



The ceremony of the new academic 1999 year, Moscow University, Russia
(President V. Putin in the Presidium)

Letter from Prof. Ladislav Pust

From: Ladislav Pust [pust@it.cas.cz]

Sent: Friday, March 09, 2007 2:14 PM

To: nvdiep@imech.ac.vn

Subject: Re: The death of Prof. Nguyen Van Dao

Dear Professor Nguyen Van Diep,

Thank you for your information about the tragic death of Academician Nguyen Van Dao.

It is a great shock for me. I remember him as a very active and gentle scientist and great person.

I often remember the meetings with him both in Vietnam and in Europe. He has a lot of friends

in Czech Republic and I will inform them about this sad accident.

With best regards

Prof. Ladislav Pust, Academician of CAS

Institute of Thermomechanics, CAS

Czech Republic



With Prof. L. Pust at Calory Vary, Czech, 1984

Letter from Prof. D. Dufresne

From: Dufresne [daniel.dufresne@univmed.fr]

Sent: Monday, March 05, 2007 4:12 PM

To: nvdiiep@imech.ac.vn

Subject: RE : The death of Prof. Nguyen Van Dao

Mon cher Diep,

C'est avec une profonde tristesse que je viens d'apprendre le décès de notre cher collègue et ami Dao.

Il me vient en mémoire les Ecoles d'Eté que nous avons organisé ensemble il y a déjà déjà quelque temps.

C'est une perte cruelle pour sa famille pour ses amis dont tu fais partie et pour la communauté scientifique et celle du Vietnam en particulier. C'était un excellent ambassadeur et défenseur de la Mécanique.

Ce sont ces images que je garderai de lui.

Mon cher Diep tu serais bien aimable de transmettre toutes mes condoléances à sa famille que malheureusement je n'ai pas eu le plaisir de connaître mais el cœur y est.

Prof. Daniel Dufresne

***Université de la Méditerranée Aix Marseille
France***