

Eeli Tiigimägi 80



The hot midsummer of this year brought the 80th birthday of known scientist and valued teacher, professor emeritus Eeli Tiigimägi, the Grand Old Man of Department of Electrical Power Engineering of Tallinn University of Technology (TUT).

Eeli was born on the 25th of July 1930, in Kaarma village near Väike-Maarja. After graduating from the Väike-Maarja Secondary School in 1949, he continued his education at Tallinn University of Technology (then Tallinn Polytechnic Institute). He graduated *cum laude* in 1954 as an electrical engineer, specializing in electric power stations, networks and systems. Postgraduate studies followed at the Power Institute of the Soviet Union Academy of Sciences (Moscow), where he defended his Ph.D. thesis on problems of HVDC (High-Voltage Direct Current) in 1958. In the same year he started his teaching career at the Institute of Power Systems in TUT.

As a long-standing Head of the institute and Dean of the Power Engineering Faculty of TUT he has been one of the buttresses and shapers of the institute. His teaching and research was devoted to operation, analysis, designing and planning of electrical networks. His lectures and his textbook on electrical networks are highly appreciated by students and participants of professional courses. The jubilarian has supervised a number of post-graduate students on masters' and Ph.D. study level. He participates productively in solving current problems and in updating the terminology of power engineer-

ing till now. He is a co-author of several technical dictionaries and has received numerous awards for his work.

Eeli has always been active in honorary duties, being the supervisor of scientific seminars of the institute, member of the Estonian Council of Tourist Activities, member of the board of Tallinn House of Scientists, member of the High-Voltage Committee of the Estonian Centre for Standardization, and so forth.

Having maintained his vitality, energy and a good sense of humor, Eeli is a keen athlete with achievements in sportive hiking, orienteering and cross-country skiing. Over 30 long distance hikes have taken him from tundras of Lapland and Taimõr peninsula to the deserts and high mountains of Central Asia; from Pyrenees and Alps to Siberian taigas and volcanoes of Kamchatka. Lately, in June 2010 he won the orienteering competition that accompanied the European Championship at Nõva – in the class of veterans over 55 (!) years. Eeli's academic nature is evident also in sport – he is an acknowledged hiking instructor and one of the founders of the multi-stage hiking study system in Estonia. His research into risks in sportive hiking is well known.

Eeli's sphere of interests and activities is wide. He has repeatedly appeared in the Estonian TV serial "Reading the Book of Nature". He collects medicinal herbs and explores the ways of their use. Lately he has devoted more time to photography, music and fine arts.

Eeli is well known by his soundness and meticulousness. He is an esteemed colleague at work as well as in leisure thanks to his correctitude, helpfulness and pleasurable humor.

Colleagues, friends and the large family of electrical power engineers and students wish the youthful jubilarian continuous energy, health, and will to take many check-points in work, sports and other activities.

In the name of colleagues, friends and students,
PEETER RAESAAR