



Jan Piechura

1936 - 2012

Obituary

by Janusz Pempkowiak

Professor Jan Piechura passed away on 12 November 2012.

Jan Piechura was born in Witkow, Poland on 8 December 1936. He graduated from the National Lomonosow University in Moscow in 1959. He earned his Doctorate in Olsztyn in 1965, and received his Habilitation in Szczecin in 1973. Professorship was granted to him, by the President of the Republic of Poland, in 1991.

During the years 1959-1968 and 1970-1973, he was employed by the Institute of Meteorology and Water Management in Gdynia, as a Head of the Physics Laboratory. During the years 1973-1990, he worked in the Sea Fisheries Institute in Gdynia, first as Head of the Department of Physics, and later as Vice Director, responsible for scientific matters.

In 1991, he moved to the Institute of Oceanology, Polish Academy of Sciences in Sopot, leading the Physical Oceanography Department of the Institute right from the beginning until 2006. From then on he stayed with the Institute as a Professor, sharing experience and considerable knowledge with younger associates. In this capacity, he led the RV Oceania voyages to the Arctic in more than fifteen seasons.

Jan Piechura is author of more than 60 scientific publications, devoted to hydrology and atmosphere-sea interactions. He was a co-founder of several international initiatives including EuroGOOS, BOOS and ArcticROOs. He has also participated in numerous European and world-wide scientific projects like DAMOCLES, DIAMIX, AREX, AWAKE and ASOF. From 2000 to 2009, he served as a member of the BALTEX Science Steering Group. He had a great impact on the oceanographic research in BALTEX.

Professor Jan Piechura was active as a scientist and organizer of the European marine research area until a severe illness interrupted his service to national and European science recently.

We pay the last tribute to the Professor with grief and sadness.