

# Foreword

*Every anniversary makes one think of what has passed and wonder what the future holds. Shall we keep the memories at heart, fully commit ourselves to the present and create the future for the new generations. The story of 60 years of two research institutes: the Institute of Biopolymers and Chemical Fibres and the Pulp and Paper Research Institute, which for many years worked independently, since 2007 has been on a single card as a consolidated entity.*

*The very early beginnings of both Institutes date back to the late 40's, when both units started their activity as small laboratories, i.e. the Laboratory of Polyamide Fibers, attached to the National Factory of Man-Made Fiber No. 7 in Jelenia Góra, and the Experimental Laboratory of Paper, attached to the Factory of Pulp and Paper in Włocławek.*

*In the 50's both of the units were relocated to Łódź as research institutes, whose over 40 year existence has been interlaced with the Polish chemical fibre and pulp and paper industries. For those sectors of the economy, they have been the source of the development of new products and technologies.*

*A period of tumultuous change started in the early 90's, when the domestic economy of the country underwent a transition from a centralized system to a market economy. These actions induced a need for radical changes in research units as well as restructuring work organisation, employment and, above all, research & development directions.*

*Concerning this, it should be especially underlined the great role of the late Professor Henryk Struszczyk Ph.D., D.Sc., Eng., a world-known scientist in chemical fibres and biotechnology. Professor Struszczyk as Deputy Director for Science and next Managing Director of the Institute, as well as member of the Fibres & Textiles in Eastern Europe Scientific Programming Board was the initiator and programming leader of new, innovative research directions which linked the Institute's activity on entirely new scientific ways. A complete review of the impressive outstanding scientific and research works of Professor Struszczyk has been published in Fibres & Textiles in Eastern Europe, in issue 6/2005(54).*

*The period mentioned above was also the time when our journal Fibres & Textiles in Eastern Europe started its successful existence and this year celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.*

*Years later, we can say with satisfaction that the Institute of Biopolymers and Chemical Fibres succeeded in the battle with the reality of those times. The Institute has been steadily consolidating its position in the scientific market by creating a new image of the unit, whose activity profile follows the latest scientific-research trends. The collaboration of the Institute with many scientific research centers and companies, both domestic and foreign, has played an invaluable role. Over the past 20 years, we have gone in the direction of modern, innovative technologies in the field of processing biopolymers and plastics, materials engineering, biotechnology and nanotechnology, biomaterials, textiles and the paper industry. The power of the Institute of Biopolymers and Chemical Fibres enhanced by the consolidation of the Pulp and Paper Research Institute lies in the flexibility and creativity of actions in the field of science.*

*The current situation of the Institute provides an opportunity for further consolidations of our image as a pro-innovative unit for which interdisciplinarity is the motor for developing new technologies.*

*On the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary I would like to express my thanks to the former and current employees of the Institute of Biopolymers and Chemical Fibres for their knowledge, experience and commitment to work. I would also like to extend my thanks to the Editor-in-Chief and the whole staff of Fibres & Textiles in Eastern Europe journal for promoting the brand of the Institute.*

*On behalf of the employees and myself I would like to thank the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, the authorities of the City of Łódź and the Province for their kindness and support in all the activities of the Institute. I would also like to express my thanks to the Polish Academy of Sciences as well as all the universities, research institutes and companies with whom we are bound by ties of friendship and cooperation for their contribution to the development of our Institute, hoping to further fruitful cooperation.*

*To all my colleagues from the Institute I would like to wish a great deal of satisfaction from work, creative ideas and success in professional and private life. Also I would like to wish good health and prosperity to all former employees of the Institute.*

Dr Danuta Ciechańska



Director of IBWCh