

# The 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Professor Stefan Brzeziński

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009, a meeting organised by Jolanta Mamenas – Director of Textile Research Institute (IW) – gathered many friends, colleagues and co-workers of Professor Stefan Brzeziński Prof. Ph.D. D.Sc. Eng to celebrate his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. On this occasion, apart from the many congratulations, addresses, short lectures on the Professor's life story and main scientific achievements were presented.



*Professor Stefan Brzeziński is the author of many scientific articles published in *Fibres & Textiles in Eastern Europe*, as well as a discerning and responsible reviewer of scientific papers sent to us for publishing. On his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday we would like to wish him health, happiness and success in continued scientific, publishing and educational activity.*

*On behalf of the Authorities of the Publisher, all the editors and associates of our journal*

*Bogdan Mac,  
Editor-in-Chief of 'Fibres & Textiles in Eastern Europe'*

## **Biographic note of Professor Stefan Brzeziński Ph.D., D.Sc., Eng.**

Stefan Włodzimierz Brzeziński was born on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1929 in Łódź, where he lived until 1940 when together with the whole family he was displaced by the so-called General Gouvernement established by the German occupants. 14 years old and facing the threat of transportation to Germany for forced labour, he had to start work at the Piotrków Trybunalski Glassworks as a simple factory worker, first 'Hortensja', and then 'Kara', where he worked to the end of the war. During the war, he did not interrupt his education, learning at home under his father's supervision, and later on in underground education courses. When the World War II ended he returned to Łódź and started his education at the M. Kopernik Secondary School, where he got a certificate of education in 1948 and undertook first-grade studies at the Textile Faculty of the Technical University of Łódź in the same year. He graduated in 1952, receiving the title of textile engineer specialising in the chemical technology of fibre. In 1956, from the same faculty, he received an MSc degree specialising in the chemical technology of fibre. He attained a Ph.D. degree in 1962 and D.Sc. degree in 1975 from the textile faculty, at the Technical University of Łódź. In 1981 he obtained the scientific title of full professor.

Since the completion of his engineering studies his activity has been devoted to the textile industry, especially the so-called silk-decorative branch, in which he started his professional work in 1951. For more than 20 years Professor Brzeziński held ever higher positions in manufacturing, especially printing and finishing house departments and in the 'Union of Silk and Decorative Fabrics Industry' (ZPJD) – the central management, where he worked as a deputy director in charge of fabric finishing production. It should be emphasised that the subject of his Ph.D. related to essential problems of chemical fibre technology and had – beyond scientific areas – a crucial industrial impact resulting in patent procedures and wide industrial implementations, yielding serious economic effects. Later his D.Sc. thesis obtained through research into the influence of thermal processing on the supermolecular structure of synthetic fibres had a similar character. During his work in ZPJD, Professor Brzeziński was also involved in effective scientific activity, participating in a wide range of problems, studies and projects, and at the same time he resolved model problems of the textile industry, especially concerning the area of decorative silk (tapestry), and presented these problems at Polish and foreign R&D conferences. From this period the following achievements of Professor Brzeziński should be mentioned: The elaboration and development of technologies for three production plants, the modernisation of ten production plants, and then active participation in the realisation of these investments and supervising the processes conducted. In 1972, at his own request, he was transferred to work

at the R&D Centre of the Silk-Decorative Industry, later transformed into the Institute of Textile Materials Engineering, where for many years, he was a manager then deputy director and proxy in charge of R&D. Since 2007, after the consolidation of certain R&D institutes of the textile industry into the Textile Research Institute (IW), he has continued his work as a professor. Simultaneously, in the period of 1976-2003 he worked at the Bielsko-Biala branch of the Technical University of Łódź, presently the University of Bielsko-Biala [Akademia Techniczno-Humanistyczna], from 1981 as professor and from 1997 – as a professor, in which he was also the head of a research unit devoted to chemical fibre technology.

The main areas of Stefan Brzeziński's scientific interest are the technology of the chemical processing of textile products made from chemical fibres (of natural and synthetic polymers), in particular thermal processing and its influence on fibre structure and relaxation, as a basis for obtaining good finishing results and printing. However, it is in the area of the ecology of fabrics and textile processes that Professor Brzeziński really stands out. Over the last decade, Professor Brzeziński has worked on the production of coated material composites, especially applying nano-technology and corona discharges to upgrade textile fabrics. In all these areas he has had many significant scientific achievements and industrial implementations.

Within his scientific achievements should be included 12 educational textbooks. He was the leading co-author of two editions (in 1978 and 1988) of the fundamental work 'The Engineer Guide – Textile Industry' and the author of the chapter 'Chemical Processing Technology of Textiles', and also the author of two monographs – academic textbooks: published in 1999 by the Technical University of Łódź – Bielsko-Biala branch, as well as a three-volume-set 'Selected aspects of the chemical processing of fibres', and in 2003/2004, by the Polish Colour Development Foundation, a two-volume-set 'Textile Printing' - the only so vast, complex and modern a study of this area in Polish. Professor Brzeziński is the author and co-author of 34 patents, as well as the author or leading co-author of over 150 papers in Polish and foreign scientific periodicals, (many listed on ISI Thompson Master Journal List) and of almost 100 reports presented at Polish and foreign scientific-technical conferences, published as conference proceedings. For 25 years he has been a lecturer at annual seminars for textile engineers, organised by The Association of Polish Chemists Colourists, presenting the latest achievements of chemical fibre technology.

He has directed or has been the leading conductor of many R&D projects of "ordered" (2), "own" research grants (12), "target" (17) and "development" (1). He was also the initiator of the so-called Key Project 'Functional textile nano- and micro-materials', which received EU funding and is currently being realised. Prof. Brzeziński is the coordinator of one of the three subject groups – work packages.

For his significant scientific activity Prof. Brzeziński has been awarded many times by Ministers of industry, education, science and defence. Furthermore, he received five gold medals at world exhibitions of inventions in 2009: 'EUREKA' in Brussels - Belgium (4) and 'INST' in Taipei, Taiwan. He has also been awarded many other medals and distinctions, including the Officer's Cross of Polonia Restituta (in 1986) for special achievements in the area of modern technology transfer to industry and enterprise modernisation. Prof. S. Brzezinski has been awarded many honour badges of associations, universities and governments of provinces.

Summing up the 58-year-long scientific and professional activity of Prof. Stefan Brzeziński, the close relationship he had the performance and development of the Polish textile industry should be emphasised as an extraordinary example. Let us hope that his knowledge and scientific experience - despite his age - will long benefit the Textile Research Institute as well as the whole of Polish textile science and industry.



Jolanta Mamenas, managing director of Textile Research Institute, handing a congratulation letter to Professor Stefan Brzeziński on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Research Textile Institute in Łódź..