

## **Prof. Dr. István Fejes**

**\*1939 - †2011**

Shortly before his 72nd birthday, following a long fight with a serious illness, Prof. Dr. István Fejes passed away on 11 June 2011. He had been working for three decades at the Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing, Satellite Geodetic Observatory (SGO) in Pénc, Hungary, and he was the head of the observatory from 1990 until his retirement in 2003.

István Fejes graduated in mathematics and physics at the Loránd Eötvös University of Sciences (Budapest, Hungary) in 1965. He earned his scientific degrees (PhD and DSc) in radio astronomy topics (The distribution of the interstellar neutral hydrogen in the Virgo region; Observations of SS433 with VLBI).

He joined the SGO at the time of its foundation in 1973. During his professional career he made significant contributions to a broad range of disciplines. As a radio astronomer, he established a successful research group working on the astrophysical and geodetic applications of Very long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) and he also contributed to the development of the Space VLBI technique. Concerning the microwave satellite positioning techniques, in the mid-eighties he worked on the Doppler interferometry technology, a precursor to the present-day Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) analysis approach. He became the head of the observatory in 1990, a difficult but exciting period in Hungary's recent history. Relying on the existing broad international collaborations, he was one of the initiators of the biennial "GPS in Central Europe" seminar series that connected researchers in Western and Eastern Europe. He played a key role in adopting the GPS technique in Hungary. This activity was honoured by the Academic Prize of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 1993. He was one of the initiators of the establishment of the Hungarian GPS Geodynamic Reference Network in the late 1980's.

In ninetieths last century he was also the initiator of the European geodynamic Project CERGOP – Central European Regional Geodynamic Project, supported financially for many years by European Union – the main of which was the establishment of a GPS geodynamic network in Central, Southern and Eastern Europe. This network called Central European Geodynamic Reference Network – CEGRN – consisting of almost 100 stations is still successfully realised in 16 countries and measured every second year giving an excellent reference for many other projects and for founding a CEGRN Consortium of many institutes from European countries. The programmes initiated and launched by István are still running. Later his interest was slightly changed from the most precise GPS applications to the real-time GNSS positioning services. He joined among the firsts to the European Position Determination System (EUPOS) initiative and contributed to the activities of the EUPOS ISC (International Steering Committee) until he was able to work.

He placed special emphasis on international scientific collaboration. He himself also spent long time in foreign research institutions, mainly in The Netherlands and Germany. As a university lecturer and PhD supervisor, he was engaged with educating the younger generation. The scientific topics he advocated still form the backbone of the research structure at the SGO.

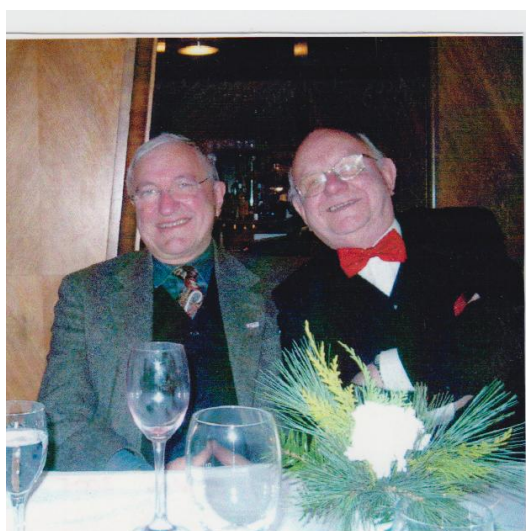
As it is impossible to list all the committees he served in, only the most relevant ones are mentioned: member of the Hungarian Space Research Council; several bodies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; Committee on Radio Astronomy Frequencies (CRAF); member of the International Astronomical Union (IAU), the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), and the International Union of Radio Science (URSI).

His colleagues and friends will miss him very much as an inventive researcher, a leader who supported young scientists, and a determined colleague. His memory and the many accomplishments he achieved will remain with us.

(Ambrus Kenyeres, Hungary)  
(Janusz Śledziński, Poland)

István sensed that his days were numbered. He attended the Warsaw ISC EUPOS Conference in October 2010; then he told me that he came in order to say me goodbye and gave me the photo taken during another ISC Conference in Berlin in 2005 with a very touching dedication.

(Janusz Sledzinski)



To my long time friend Janusz  
"Remember The GOOD DAYS!"  
István

EUPOS, Berlin, Nov. 2005