



Prof. Dr.-Ing. Robert Piloty

IFIP is sad to announce that one of its pioneers and great contributors, Robert Piloty, passed away on January 21, 2013 at the age of 88.

Those who worked with him describe him as a model of acute intelligence, open mindedness, dedication to his professional activities, and human qualities. Our community lost a great scientist and to many a good friend.

Robert Piloty was one of the founders of Computer Architecture in Germany. In 1949, he started the PERM project: a computer built on vacuum-tube technology (Programmgesteuerter Elektronischer Rechenautomat München [programmable electronic computer Munich]). PERM was the technical basis for a large number

of research activities in the area of programming languages, compiler construction, computer arithmetic, etc. It can now be seen in the German Museum, Munich.

In 1955 Robert Piloty started as deputy head of the IBM research laboratory in Zurich, Switzerland and moved on to SEL in 1957 to become head of systems planning. He was then called by Darmstadt University in 1964 to become Professor. He significantly contributed to establish Computer Science curricula in Darmstadt, and Germany in general.

He was one of the early contributors to the domain of CHDL's (Computer Hardware Description Languages), with the definition of the RTS1 language, and the development of its simulation software, in early 70's. He organized and chaired the 2nd International Workshop on CHDL's in Darmstadt, 1974.

From 1976 to 1981, he chaired the CONLAN (CONsensus LANguage) working group, that set the semantic grounds for the VHDL standard. Robert Piloty and his group implemented the extensible CONLAN compiler and simulator. Then, the last part of his research was dedicated to design libraries and design frameworks.

Robert Piloty founded the IFIP WG10.2, of which he was the first chair (the current WG10.5 is the result of merging WG10.2 and WG10.5). He was a member of the IFIP General Assembly and has been IFIP Vice-President from 1979-1984.

Robert Piloty received many distinctions and honours: IFIP Silver Core, IEEE Fellow, Konrad-Zuse Medal (German Informatics Society), Erasmus-Kittler- and Alwin-Walther-Medal (Darmstadt Univ.), Gauss-Medal (Braunschweigische Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft [Braunschweig Society of Science])