



### **Acad. Blagovest Sendov**

The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences announces with deep sadness that on 19 January 2020, Academician Blagovest Hristov Sendov passed away after a short illness, at the age of 87.

Acad. Blagovest Sendov was a world-renowned Bulgarian mathematician, eminent statesman and public figure.

Academician Sendov was born on 8 February 1932 in Asenovgrad. In 1956, he graduated in Mathematics at the Faculty of Mathematics of Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski"; from 1960 to 1961 he specialized in Moscow State University; in 1964 he defended his PhD thesis and in 1967 became doctor of science. In 1968, he was elected professor of computational mathematics, in 1974 – corresponding member of BAS, and in 1981 – academician.

He was the youngest scientist to be granted the titles doctor of science, professor and rector of Sofia University at the times he obtained them.

Academician Sendov's scientific interests and achievements were in the field of approximation theory, mathematical modeling (especially in mathematical biology), numerical methods and informatics as well as in the Hausdorff approximations field which he himself initiated. Academician Sendov founded a world-recognized Bulgarian school in these fields.

The scientific work of Academician Sendov comprises hundreds of publications, of which more than 200 scientific papers, 4 monographs, many textbooks and popular articles.

The administrative activity of Academician Sendov was rich. He was Deputy Director of the Institute of Mathematics with Computing Center – BAS (1967-1970); Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics at Sofia University (1970-1973), Rector of Sofia University (1973-1979), in 1980 he was elected Vice-President of BAS, in 1982-1988, first Vice-President of BAS and Scientific Secretary-General of BAS, and in the period 1988-1991 he was President of the Academy. At various times, Academician Sendov was member of the Mathematics and Physics Committee of the Higher Attestation Commission, the Dimitrov Prize Commission, the National Committee for Mathematics and other national and international bodies. In 1980, he was elected Vice-President of the World Peace Council. He was also a member of a number of foreign academies.

From 1989 to 1992, he was president of the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP). During this period he exerted great efforts for prosperity of IFIP.

Within IFIP, Academician Sendov used his considerable abilities as both mathematician and politician over many years to promote IFIP's objectives around the globe. He assumed the IFIP Presidency at the start of a period of dramatic political change in Europe and did much to use the changes for the benefit of IFIP and of the changing world. He was always a popular figure at IFIP General Assemblies and delegates respected his experience and guidance. His last attendance at an IFIP event was in Poznan where he was still encouraging IFIP to promote the benefits of

ICT by co-operation between IFIP members and by reaching out to countries not yet represented in IFIP's membership.

Academician Sendov was a Member of Parliament in the 36th National Assembly, President of the 37th National Assembly and Vice-President of the 38th National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria. During the period 2004-2009, Academician Sendov was Ambassador of Bulgaria to Japan.

Acad. Sendov was a pioneer in a number of educational innovations. In the 1970s, Academician Sendov introduced into the Faculty of Mathematics of Sofia University the three-cycle training (bachelor, master and doctoral) which is now widespread in all universities. In the 1980s, the Task Group in Education, which he created, proposed new methods of teaching at schools based on emerging modern technologies.

The list of awards that Acad. Sendov received over the years in recognition of his scientific, administrative and social activities is long. In 1969, he was awarded the Dimitrov Prize in Science; in 1970 he was elected a Fellow of the American Mathematical Society; in 1976 he was granted the title Doctor Honoris Causa of Moscow State University; in 1981 he was awarded the title People's Activist in Science; in 1982 he received the Order "People's Republic of Bulgaria – 1st degree". Acad. Sendov was also awarded the Order of "St. Cyril and Methodius – 1st degree" and more.

Acad. Sendov was a patriot and a man of great energy, enthusiasm, industriousness who had the will to realize his ideas.

With the demise of Academician Blagovest Sendov, the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and Bulgarian science has lost a great scientist, public figure and respectable person.