

PEOPLE

Werner KIKAS – 80

Professor Dr.-Ing. Werner Kikas, the elder statesman of cement research in Estonia, had his 80 birthday on 8th December, 1996. Kikas, who for many years looked after the building materials department in the civil engineering faculty at the Tallinn Technical University, was born in Rutikvere in 1916. He came from a family of teachers and started his studies at Tallinn Technical University in 1937. He completed them in 1944 with a degree in construction engineering. Even during his studies Kikas acted as an assistant to his teacher, Prof. Maddison. During this work he was able to acquire an extensive understanding of the different building materials and their properties. When a pioneering research laboratory was founded at the Polytechnic Institute in Tallinn in 1960, Werner Kikas was appointed as the head of science. One of his great contributions was that from this time on he was concerned with the industrial exploitation of oil shale ash for producing high-grade Portland oil shale cements. These are now highly regarded and have for a long time been used in such important building projects as bridges and television towers.



Kikas was awarded his doctorate in 1974 for some work on Portland oil shale cements, and a year later he was appointed Professor of Building Materials in the building faculty at the Tallinn Polytechnic Institute. From 1990 he devoted himself entirely to scientific work. The emphasis was always on cements and concretes from burnt oil shale. He also played a major part in developing large numbers of cement-related standards, often in close cooperation with foreign research institutes.

During the course of his very well planned life Werner Kikas has always advocated active healthy sport. He himself was for many years a keen participant in ski marathons.

His colleagues, pupils, business partners and friends wish him continued health, creative power, happiness and many more new discoveries about cement.

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