

FROM THE SCIENTIFIC SPHERE

Looking back upon the life and work of prof. Ing. Jiří Tvrdoň, CSc.

More than five years have already gone since we congratulated at this place to prof. Ing. Jiří Tvrdoň, CSc. on his sixtieth birthday and this contribution is only looking back upon his life and work. Prof. Ing. Jiří Tvrdoň, CSc. left us suddenly and unexpectedly. His lifelong profession and special work is inseparably connected with the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague (the former University of Agriculture) and especially with the Faculty of Economics and Management. In fact he dedicated all his life to his Alma Mater and namely to his workplace.

Prof. Ing. Jiří Tvrdoň, CSc. was born on the 18th September 1942 in Uherský Brod. He first graduated from the Eleven-Year Secondary School in Uherský Brod. In 1959, he came from his native town to Prague where he studied at the Faculty of Economics and Management (FEM) at the University of Agriculture in Prague with excellent results. After that he was engaged at the Department of Agricultural Economics which became a base for his pedagogic and scientific work for the next 43 years and which was at the same time undoubtedly his second home.

In 1964 he started his further scientific preparation and from 1965 he began his pedagogic activity at the Department of Agricultural Economics of his maternal Faculty of Economics and Management. His further intensive study and involvement in the scientific work enabled him to obtain the title Candidate of Economic Sciences in 1973 on the base of the thesis "Possibilities of Derivation of Supply and Demand Functions for Meat and Meat Products". In 1977, he successfully habilitated and obtained the title Docent in the branch of Economics of Agriculture with his work "Simultaneous Prognostic Model of Agriculture Development". His high assignment and results of pedagogic and research activity were a base for his fast qualification growth which culminated in his being appointed the full professor (Prof.) in the branch of Economics and Management.

His pedagogic work was universal. Besides teaching in all forms of master study, he shared in preparation of new study programs and in the transformation of

content of teaching of the faculty to the conditions of market economy. In this context, he prepared and coordinated significant international projects Tempus financed by the European Union ("Transformation of the Faculty of Agricultural Economics and Management Education for the Needs of Market Economy", 1995–1997, a coordinator; "Introduction of the Transferable Credit System", 1997–1998, researcher).

He successfully applied his organization and managing skills in many important functions – at first as a secretary of the Department of Agricultural Economics, than as a manager of the Computing Institute of the University of Agriculture in Prague, also as the vice-dean and the dean of FEM.

On the base of his talent, intensive scientific work and pedagogic abilities, he became a foremost Czech and internationally respected academician who was a desired lecturer at many not only European but also American and East-Asian universities and international conferences.

During his life he brought to a successful fulfilment hundreds of university graduates and tens of Ph.D. students who are at present holding important positions not only at home but also abroad. In the domestic and foreign libraries, many results of his intensive publication activity can be found, counting several hundreds of publication items. Among the most important areas of his special interest, there belonged econometric methods and models as well as agri-food market, European integration, sustainable development, agrarian policy and globalization. Professor Tvrdoň was known for his never-dying research verve stemming from the deep theoretical knowledge, practical experience and organizational abilities.

The scientific contribution of prof. Tvrdoň for the FEM CULS in Prague was and still it is considerable. It represents a prerequisite of the successful development of the FEM and the CULS in Prague. He significantly contributed also to the development of scientific work at the sister workplaces in the CR and abroad. He was a chairman of the Advisory

Board of Agricultural Economics and a member of many other advisory boards in undoubtedly CR and abroad; a chairman of many commissions, boards; a member of many other Czech and foreign special institutions.

Further professor Tvrdoň's activities, which can not be missed out, were also the initiation and realization of many two- and multi-side scientific and pedagogic projects of the faculty and the university (Socrates – Erasmus, KATO, a transatlantic consortium, Summer Schools for American universities, internship programs in the USA) with many European, American and Asian universities.

His excellent and balanced academic activities were the reflection of his personality characteristics – the unusual diligence, self-sacrifice, conscientiousness, responsibility, concern, self-discipline, willingness to receive tasks, and others. To these, also the ability of synthesis, generalization, perception of solved

problems in undoubtedly wider context as well as undoubtedly willingness to impart his pieces of knowledge and experience to students, Ph.D. students and younger workers were joined.

On behalf of the Department of Agricultural Economics, the Faculty of Economics and Management and also on behalf of the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague, we thank to prof. Tvrdoň for his broad activities and for his great contribution to the development of our Alma Mater. His contribution to culture and knowledge in the national and international dimension we take not only as a heritage but at the same time also as an incentive and a challenge for our workplace.

In the person of prof. Tvrdoň we have lose an excellent university professor, a significant expert with the international renown, a nice colleague and a precious man whose intellectual heritage will live in acts of the academic community and expert public.

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