
INTERNATIONAL THERMOELECTRIC ACADEMY



DAVID MICHAEL ROWE

(1939 – 2012)

On April 19, 2012 David Michael Rowe, a famous scientist, Research Director of BabRow Thermoelectric Consultants Limited, Holder of University of Wales Personal Chair in Thermoelectrics, Doctor of Philosophy, Professor, Doctor of Science, Honorary Research Professor at Cardiff School of Engineering, Honoured Academician of the International Thermoelectric Academy, passed away after a grave illness.

For his devotion to work, contribution to progress in thermoelectricity he was respected and admired throughout the thermoelectric community.

David Michael Rowe was born on May 19, 1939. He held two graduate degrees from the University College Swansea, BSc in Pure Mathematics (1962) and BSc with honours in Physics (1963). His MSc post graduate training was undertaken at Physics laboratory, University of Bristol (1963 – 1985), followed by a PhD at the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology, Cardiff (1966 – 1967). In parallel, he was a Research Fellow of Harwell United Kingdom Atomic Energy Establishment. David Michael Rowe was appointed an assistant lecturer (1967), then a lecturer and a senior lecturer. As a British Council visiting scientist he worked in India (1975), at the California Institute of Science and Technology, Jet propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena (1989), Kunming Institute of Physics, China (1990). In 1988 Professor Rowe was promoted to Wales University Reader and in 1995 he was awarded a Personal Professorial Chair for his research into thermoelectric materials.

The research interests of Professor Rowe were in all aspects of thermoelectric energy conversion. In 1984 he established a consulting company “BabRow Thermoelectric Consultants Limited”. For more than 40 years M. Rowe was a researcher of international standing in thermoelectricity. In 1986 Rowe invented and patented his first miniature thermoelement that could be used in the integral circuits. It was a forerunner of numerous miniature generators and cooling devices subsequently developed.

In 1991 Professor M. Rowe together with M. Muraki patented the preparation of nanoparticle-size lead telluride thermoelectric material which was a breakthrough in the manufacture of thin-film layered semiconductor structures.

Professor Rowe took the lead in the foundation of the European Thermoelectric Society of which he was President. In 1997 – 2001 M. Rowe was elected President of the International Thermoelectric Society, was an Honorary Member of the International Academy of Refrigeration, organizer of four International Conferences on Thermoelectrics.

D.M. Rowe has authored more than three hundred scientific papers, three books and the two best-selling texts on thermoelectrics published by CRC Press and was an Editorial Board member of four International journals.

David Michael Rowe was recipient of the International Thermoelectric Society's best conference paper award on two occasions (1989 and 2000); he was awarded with Gold Medal of the International Academy of Refrigeration and honorary Golden Prize of the International Thermoelectric Academy. In 2007 Her Majesty Queen Elisabeth II appointed D.M.Rowe an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in recognition of services to technology and applied sciences.

D.M. Rowe was a wonderful person, an affectionate husband, father, unsurpassed scientist who will remain forever in the hearts of those who had the honour to know him.

The International Thermoelectric Academy, Institute of Thermoelectricity of the NAS Ukraine, "Journal of Thermoelectricity" Publishers are deeply mourning over the death of David Michael Rowe, a prominent physicist whose multi-sided research and scientific-organizational activities have left their impressive mark in the science and blessed memory of the people.