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## PETR HÁJEK PASSED AWAY

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On 26th December 2016 a world famous mathematician Prof. RNDr. Petr Hájek, DrSc. departed from this life.

This great Czech scientist was born on 6th February 1940 in Prague. He graduated from the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University in Prague (MFF UK), and, being a person of many talents, he had also studied organ music and successfully graduated from the Music Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (AMU).

For most of his life Prof. Hájek worked as a researcher at the Czech (former Czechoslovak) Academy of Sciences (CAS) in Prague, at both the Institute of Mathematics and the Institute of Computer Science, where, following the Velvet Revolution, he held the post of Director, throughout the years of 1992 to 2000.

For more than half a century Professor Hájek devoted himself to research and problem-solving in the field of mathematical logic and its applications, concentrating, above all, on the area of theory of sets, arithmetic, fuzzy logic, data mining and vague information processing. He influenced the direction of mathematical logic a great deal, projecting its application into the area of artificial intelligence.

As an author of many monographs and a number of technical, educational and popular books, Prof. Hájek left an indelible imprint in all spheres of his scientific and educational activities and interests. Worth mentioning is his co-authorship of an essential work in the field of his life-long studies: “Meta-mathematics of First-Order Arithmetic”, published in 1993.

In his other works he made a crucial contribution to the principles of fuzzy logic proving that fuzzy logic can be interpreted within the elements of strict mathematical logic, thus being able to demonstrate the possibility of formulations in the framework of pure logic by the means of the truth-values able to be compared. Prof. Hájek wrote four textbooks, is an author or co-author of several scientific books and more than 350 specialized studies and scientific articles.

During his active life he was appointed a professor at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University in Prague, gave lectures at the Faculty of Nuclear Sciences and Physical Engineering and the Faculty of Information Technology of the Czech Technical University in Prague, and the Technical University of Vienna. He founded and for several decades gave seminars for applied mathematical logic.

Based on his high professional competence Prof. Hájek was a member of the Kurt Gödel Society whose chair he was elected from 1996 to 2003, became, further on, a long-time distinguished member of the Learned Society of the Czech Republic, was a member of the Czech Society for Cybernetics and Informatics and member of

the Union of Czech Mathematicians and Physicists, not to mention his membership in many other important institutions and societies, both Czech and international.

In addition, Professor Hájek was a very respected editor of several renowned scientific journals, therefore, our Neural Network World scientific journal boasted the great honour that Prof. RNDr. Petr Hájek, DrSc. had long years belonged to the members of its International Editorial Board.

Professor Hájek was not only a scientist but also an excellent musician and since his childhood a fond worshipper of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren.

He had been an ardent organ player at the Saint Kliment's Church in Prague for forty years. As a man of firm principles, kind and solicitous, he could not bear any kind of wrongdoing or injustice – evils which some people were exposed to – even in the world of science, especially during the totalitarian regime.

For his great achievements in science and immense contribution to humanity he was awarded the Medal of Honour by the Czech Academy of Sciences designated: “De scientia et humanitate optime meritis”. His scientific accomplishments and unshakably strong faith in human goodness were also acknowledged by the “Medal of Merit” conferred on this scholar and man of character by the President of the Czech Republic in 2006.

We pay tribute to Prof. RNDr. Petr Hájek's, DrSc. eternal memory.

Editorial Board of Neural Network World