

The career of Dušan Florjančič

Born in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 19 November 1927, in 1946 he finished the gymnasium with his Matura. He registered in the autumn of 1946 with the ETH (Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland) and graduated in 1950 with a degree in mechanical engineering, specialized in fluid dynamics, with Professor Dr. Sc. techn. Jakob Ackeret.

After nearly a year of a scientific fellowship at the Institute of Aerodynamics in Zurich, he joined the LUWA Company in Zurich as a development engineer, working as a specialist in the field of fans and blowers.

Two years later he joined Sulzer and was first employed as a development and design engineer in the gas-turbine division. During this time he was involved in the development of gas-turbine elements as well in the development of radial and axial compressors and supersonic radial compressors.

In 1958 he became the Head of the Hydraulic Department of the Pump Division, in subsequent years guiding the basic hydraulic development as well the applied development of storage pumps for stations in Europe and abroad. In addition, he led the development for large water-transport schemes, for example, at Techachapi in the USA.

Among other hydraulic applied developments, he was involved in research relating to single- and multi-stage reversible pump-turbines.

Under his responsibility, additional development works for high-head-energy boiler feed pumps, for both classical and nuclear power plants, were carried out.

In July 1970 he was awarded a Doctor of Engineering degree by the Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich, for his research thesis, treating the temperature influence on the cavitation behaviour of centrifugal pumps.

Dr. Florjančič was appointed Technical Manager of the Pump Division of Sulzer Brothers Ltd in 1974. A year later he was appointed as Assistant Vice President, and in 1980 to Deputy Vice President, Head of the Technical Department Pump Division.

From 1984 he was responsible for the EPRI project No. 1884 in the USA. The aim of this development project was to improve the availability of different elements of boiler feed pumps and to create guidelines for the design of this type of centrifugal pump.

From 1988 to 1993, while he was employed by Sulzer, Dr. Florjančič was elected as a lecturer at ETH, Zurich, lecturing on the design aspects of turbomachinery, especially centrifugal pumps.

He has given invited lectures at symposiums and universities all over the world, and has more than 55 published technical articles. He presents educational seminars in Germany, Brazil and the Netherlands.

In 1989 he retired as a Technical Director of the Sulzer Pump Division, but stayed on as Chief Consulting Engineer of the Pump Division until 1994.

In 1994 he was elected to the position of Full Professor by the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, in the field of hydraulic turbomachinery, and in 1998 he was awarded the Golden Medal by the same university for his contribution to the field of turbopumps.

He is currently an independent consultant for special problems related to hydraulic machines and their systems.

He began his cooperation with the Turboinštitut in the field of centrifugal pumps and systems in 1987. This cooperation continues to this day.