

OBITUARY

KONSTANTIN NIKOLAEVICH FEDOROV **1927 – 1988**

Konstantin Fedorov died on 21 September 1988, only a few days after he had returned home from the Joint Oceanographic Assembly in Acapulco, Mexico. For those of us who had seen him there, active and dedicated to international science as ever, the sad news that he had suddenly left the oceanographic community hardly seemed possible.

Konstantin Fedorov was born in 1927 in Leningrad, USSR. In 1955, he earned a Ph.D. in physical oceanography at the Institute of Oceanology in Moscow, working with Prof. V. Stockmann. In 1958 and 1959 he received a UNESCO grant for postdoctoral studies at the University of Liverpool and the Imperial College in London. From 1961 to 1969, he served at the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, being Secretary of the Commission from 1963 to 1969. From 1976 to 1980 he was President of the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) and then served as Past-president of SCOR until 1988. He was also chairman of SCOR Working Group 69, "Small-Scale Turbulence and Mixing in the Ocean", which successfully finished its job in 1988.

His scientific work started with studies of the wind-driven circulation, but closest to his heart were problems concerning fine-scale structure and mixing in the ocean. From his early paper of 1976, written jointly with Henry Stommel on small-scale structure near Timor and Mindanao, to his 1978 book *The Thermohaline Finestructure of the Ocean* (a preceding Russian edition appeared in 1976), and to the 1988 book *The Near Surface Layer of the Ocean* (in Russian), co-authored with his wife Ann Ginzburg, he produced a long line of scientific accomplishments and publications on the topics of thermohaline fine structure, convection, temperature inversions, intrusion processes and transformation of water masses. While he also dealt with laboratory experiments, most of his research was related to ship observations, with much of the data obtained during his numerous cruises on research vessels.

Konstantin Fedorov was a committed scientist whose contributions to physical oceanography considerably expanded our understanding of the mixing processes in the ocean. He was also a key person in international marine science during the last decades, drawing together intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and promoting the scientific communication between east and west. Those of us who associated with him frequently know that this hard diligent worker was a very kind man. Konstantin Fedorov will be missed.

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