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In Celebration

Prof. Em. Dr.-Ing. Dr.-Ing. E.h. mult. Franz Mayinger on his 80th birthday



Prof. Mayinger is one of the leading names in the field of thermal sciences and well respected amongst his professional colleagues all over the world. He was born on 2 September 1931, in Augsburg, Germany. He received his degrees of Dipl.-Ing. (1955), and Dr.-Ing. (1961) from the Lehrstuhl (chair) for Thermodynamics, Department of Mechanical Engineering at the Technical University of Munich.

Professor Mayinger started his professional life as a research assistant (1956–1961) at the “Lehrstuhl” (chair) and Institute of Thermodynamics at the Technical University of Munich. To acquire industrial experience, he worked as a chief engineer and head of the research department for nuclear and process engineering at MAN Nürnberg (1962–1969). Then he was selected as full professor and the director of the Institute of Process Engineering at the Technical University of Hannover (1969–1981). He served as Dean of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the Technical University of Hannover (1973/1974 and 1979/1980). In 1980, a search began to find a director for the prestigious Chair of the Thermodynamics A at the Technical University of Munich. Prof. Mayinger was selected to lead this well-known chair in 1981, a chair that was headed by Wilhelm Nusselt, Ernst Schmidt and Ulrich Grigull before him. He was also elected as the Dean of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the Technical University of Munich

(1986/1987). He became Professor Emeritus of this chair in 1999. He was the founding Dean of the faculty for Applied Natural Sciences at the Bayreuth University (1995–1998) and had been the Chairman of the Board of this university from 1998 to 2009. He served as the member of Reactor Safety Commission at the Federal Department of Environment (1971–1992) and the Chairman of this Commissions in 1983/1984 and in 1990, Chairman of the Commission of Accidents and Failures in Chemical Plants at the Federal Department of Environment (1992–1996), member of the Advisory Board of Science and Technology of the Government of Bavaria (1993–1999), member of the Senate of the German Research Society (1977–1983), a member of the Advisory Board for Science of the Federal Government of Germany (1991–1997). He was the Scientific Chairman of the Bavarian Elite Academy (1998–2002). He has been frequently invited as a lecturer and speaker by various institutions in the US, Europe, Japan, China and other countries.

He published over 350 scientific papers on Thermodynamics, Heat and Mass Transfer, Multiphase-Flow, Power Engineering, Optical Measurement Techniques and on Reactor Safety. Prof. Mayinger performed pioneering work in all these fields and he has been recognized as one of the most outstanding scientists in the field of thermal sciences. He has received many international recognition: Max Jacob Award of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and American Institute of Chemical Engineering, which may especially be mentioned as the most prestigious award in the field of heat transfer was bestowed to him in 1991. He received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Hannover (1994) and the University of Bayreuth (2006), Medallion “Bene Meritus” of the Bavarian Minister for Science and Art (1995), Bavarian Supreme Medal of Merits (1995), Bavarian Medal for Environmental Research (1996), Bavarian Medal for Environmental Research (1998), and Ernest Solvay Award (2000).

Maxmilians Order, the highest award of Bavaria for scientific work (2001), Emeritus of Excellence of the Technical University of Munich (2005).

Prof. Mayinger has served in numerous scientific societies as the member of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences, German Academy of Technical Sciences, German Supreme Scientific Board, and the president of the Bavarian Leadership Academy.

Everybody who has become acquainted with Prof. Mayinger or had the opportunity to work with him has enjoyed his charming personality and his well-grounded humor. On the occasion of his 80th birthday, on behalf of his students, colleagues and friends all over the world, we wish him a very happy birthday and many more active years in good health and happiness with his wife Frau Franziska Mayinger, children and grandchildren.

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