## Martin Chovan seventy years old

## Juraj Majzlan

Not a long time ago, on February 4, Prof. Martin Chovan celebrated his 70th birthday. We have reported about his work before (Mineralia Slovaca 38/3/2006) and there is no reason to repeat all that information here. We are pleased to confirm that the last 10 years did not detract anything in his relentless activity, enthusiasm, and charm.

His name has been connected for a long time with scientific and applied work on ore mineralizations in the Western Carpathians, especially in the mountain ranges of Nízke Tatry and Malé Karpaty. Together with his colleagues and many students, he also enhanced the knowledge of the ore bodies in Magura, Vysoké Tatry, Štiavnické vrchy, and Malá Fatra Mts. His projects reflect the breadth of the research in economic geology and dealt with ore mineralogy, fluid inclusions, stable isotopes, geothermometers, hydrothermal alterations, structural geology, and ore processing. He is currently exploring the efficiency of ore processing in the last active gold mine in Slovakia, the Rozália mine in Hodruša.

His work can be characterized by the attention to details, effort to penetrate into the depth of the problem. At the same time, the "big picture" is not forgotten. The propensity to encompass breadth and depth of scientific knowledge is typical for him but rare in the today's scientific work.

The complex view, typical for his work, was used to a full extent in Martin's environmental projects. They dealt with contamination induced by mining. For the first project of this kind (at the abandoned Pezinok deposit), he brought together experts from various fields and investigated all environmental compartments, from leaves on the trees, soils, water, minerals, and mineraloids. The team that performed so well under his supervision is still active and addressed many issues of environmental contamination owing to former mining in Slovakia. All this work is, of course, closely related to the ore mineralizations, and builds on the knowledge of the mineralogical and geochemical composition of the primary ores.

A number of projects that followed the initial one in Pezinok followed up and brought many insights. The work found its place in national but especially international journal. Martin's precise and systematic work is the basis of the success of all these projects.

Apart from these projects, Martin was (2008–2011) the principal investigator and chair of the Centre of Excellence SOLIPHA (Research and Education Excellence Centre for Nanomaterials, Environmental Mineralogy, and Materials Science). This project allowed the purchase of an X-ray diffractometer and infrared spectrometer. Securing the funds for such instruments and the improvement of the existing infrastructure is a task for the uttermost persistent and patient ones. Martin has taken up this task and has done a perfect job, for the benefit of many scientists in Slovakia.

Martin educated a number of students, either in economic or environmental mineralogy. Many positions of mineralogists and geologists in Slovakia and abroad (USA, Canada, Germany, Poland) were taken by his students. They found jobs at universities, research institutes, and in industry. All his students profited



from the interaction with him and his wide network of professional contacts, enabling them to participate in shorter or longer study stays at foreign institutions.

For all those who worked and appreciated Martin's approach to science, people, and life, we are wishing him all the best for the coming years, much health and much of the eternal enthusiasm. We are looking forward to further interaction with Martin and wish him many pleasant days, wherever he may be, for example in his summer house in Hodruša. Martin - all the best!