

FAREWELL OLEG: A LIFE IN BROADCAST TECHNOLOGY



Prof. Oleg Viktorovich Gofaizen
International Expert in Broadcast Technologies
1936-2020

The light went out for many in this year of CV19. They included one of the great researchers, teachers, and internationalists of broadcast technology of our time, Oleg Gofaizen. Together with his wife, he passed away on 25 November 2020.

Oleg spend his whole life in Catherine-the-Great's elegant city of Odessa, Ukraine, the Pearl of the Black Sea, and home to the Popov National Academy of Telecommunications, where for many years he was Head of the Television and Radio Broadcasting Department. Born and raised in Odessa before the last war, Oleg lived through difficult decades to become a Doctor of Science, University Professor, author, formidable delegate to the ITU, a colleague and friend to many of us.

Oleg was a tireless round-the-clock worker, as his understanding family will attest. He wrote around 600 scientific papers, two reference books, more than 200 contributions to the ITU, and held over 40 patents. At the same time, he led the development of the national television and radio standards for the Ukraine. At the ITU, he led many activities as Vice Chair of 11A, Study Group 6, and ITU-T Study Group 9. In addition, he also organized international conferences and was ever willing to help students and colleagues to progress in the search for greater knowledge and understanding of his beloved broadcast technology.

Prof. Gofaizen was a man of many good ideas. One was 'ambient adaptive displays'. The idea was that the screen senses and measures the ambient light where it is being watched. Then the parameter values of the set and screen display adjust themselves automatically, so the viewer always experiences the scene as close as possible to the way the program maker intended.

In the ITU-R SG6 he was also the driving force behind handbooks in two of his most expert areas. One was the study of the true elements of color and our perception of it ('colorimetry'). The other was an analysis of the options for digital broadcasting, which he finalized working with co-author Christoph Dosch.

Co-author David Wood first met Oleg Gofaizen in the 1980s in the ITU. They shared the view that evaluating the quality of images on a screen was a complex matter and needed the combination of the tools from both physics and psychology. David had edited an ITU Recommendation (Rec.500) on this, and

Oleg's University in Odessa was one of the only ones in the world that also studied the area. David was honored to complete a PhD on this in his research group. Oleg helped others from outside Ukraine similarly in other topics.

Oleg achieved a long list of plaudits: he was a Member of the Academy of Communications of Ukraine; a Member of the International Academy of Informatization; a Member of the Expert Commission of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine; a Member of the IEEE; Deputy Chairman of the Technical Committee of TC 123 Ukraine for standardization "Audiovisual systems and services"; a Member of the editorial board of the journal "Scientific works of O.S. Popov ONAT"; Deputy Editor-in-chief and Scientific Editor of the published collection of scientific papers "Digital Technologies".

Through it all, Oleg was a very personable, incredibly hardworking, expert who loved his family and friends. He did his utmost to forward the science and technology of broadcasting, and to be a credit to his University, his City, and his Nation. A man works are his sons. Oleg has a great family.

David Wood

Consultant, EBU Technology and Innovation

Christoph Dosch

Institut für Rundfunktechnik