

Prof.Dr. Defrim Rusi Shkupi

Prof.Dr.BETIM MUCO (1947- 2015)

Prof.Dr. Betim Muco was a seismologist, writer and translator, born in Tirana, the capital of Albania, on January 21, 1947. He graduated in nuclear physics from the University of Tirana in 1970 y., specializing in seismology. He held a PhD in Earth Sciences. Muco's scientific career spans more than four decades. He contributed to the practice and the development of seismology in Albania and the Balkans through his work at the Albanian Seismological Institute (1974-2001y.). He was Director of the Seismological Institute from 1993 to 1997y. As Director of the Seismological Network of Albania, he led several international and regional projects and published a wide array of scientific articles and books.

From 1998 to 2005 y. Betim Muco co-led two NATO Science for Peace projects on Seismology. In 2001y. he moved to the USA, with his family, and received U.S. citizenship as an "Exceptional Ability Individual in the Sciences and Arts, who would substantially benefit prospectively the national economy, cultural interests of the United States."

From 2001 Muco lived and worked with his family in Rockville, Maryland where he continued his scientific work. He was Science Editor and Translator at General Dynamics Information Technology and a consultant for the Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS) in Washington D.C.. He presented many scientific papers in many Conferences in the USA and Europe. He wrote a series of papers on the correlations between rain and earthquakes in the state of Virginia.

Muco was also a writer and poet. He went to write and publish more than 25 books of poetry, short stories, novels and essays. He won several literary awards in Albania and overseas.

Many of his poems and short stories have been translated and published in English, Russian, French, Dutch, Romanian and Turkish.

He also was a translator into Albanian of works of Graham Green, Saul Bellow, Yukio Mishima, Reiner Maria Rilke, James Joyce, Vladimir Nabukov and Alice Munro.. In 2008 y. he translated into Albanian an "Anthology of World Poetry of 20 th Century" including the works of 135 world poets.

On the evening before his death he was putting the finishing touches to his latest novel: "THE STARS ARE QUITE CLOSE" which is published post-mortem.

Betim Muco was Honorary Consul of Japan in Albania in the 1990y.

During a post-doctorate program of the University of Tokyo (1990-1991), he

developed close ties with Japan ,Its culture and especially its community of seismologists.

Prof.Dr.Betim Muco was a main member of the Board of ANG of IAEG, since the foundation(1994). He has participated in many activities of our Association in Albania and abroad. His death is a great loss for all us.