

Academician György Enyedi receives *Laureat d'Honneur* award



Achievements of Hungarian geographical science received an exclusive appreciation on the 31st Congress of the International Geographical Union (IGU) held in Tunis between August 12 and 15, 2008. *Laureat d'Honneur*, the highest recognition by the IGU was presented to Professor György ENYEDI, former Vice-President of the IGU at the closing session. It should be considered a great honour for the Hungarian scientist, because from East and Central Europe only three prominent geographers – I.P. GERASIMOV (Russia), J. KOSTROWICKI and S. LESZCZYCKI (Poland) – were hitherto honoured with this award. During the ceremony two other outstanding representatives of the discipline – V.M. KOTLJAKOV (Russia) and L.A. KOSINSKI (Canada, former president of the IGU) – were conferred the same distinction.

Words of appreciation of György ENYEDI'S oeuvre and his high international merits in the field of geography were voiced by Ronald F. ABLER, President of the IGU as follows.

“For decades, Prof. György ENYEDI has been the voice and the face of Hungarian geography in the worldwide community of geographers. This position was built first and foremost on the quality of his own work, but also on his skills at team building. Secondly, because of his untiring efforts at maintaining international academic contacts, he has brought many colleagues from abroad in contact with their Hungarian counterparts and this cross-pollination has born rich fruit. During his long and distinguished career, he thus made a major contribution to the international standing of Hungarian geography.

He built contacts with many groups across the world, using his positions in Hungarian Academy very effectively to disseminate knowledge and insights at a global scale. At the individual level also, he has, directly and indirectly, stimulated many people to make, maintain and expand contacts and to share its benefits with others. Both as a person

and as a mentor, he has touched the professional lives of numerous colleagues across the world of geography.

György ENYEDI is a decisive figure in the long-term development of regional science as an independent and integrative discipline. He has been equally impressive in his leadership capacity within science internationally. Vice-President of the International Geographical Union (1984-1992), he served as President of the Hungarian committee of UNESCO (1998-2002). He is a member of Academia Europaea as well as an honorary member of seven foreign geographical societies. He is Chief Editor of the journal *Hungarian Science* and still serves on the editorial board of several international journals. He was visiting scholar in various leading US and French universities and has received several Hungarian and international awards and honors.

Professor ENYEDI, you have made gigantic contributions to the discipline of geography and have championed its identity among a broad range of other sciences. Please accept this *Laureat d'Honneur 2008* as the deserved recognition by the International Geographical Union of your numerous outstanding achievements."

Hungarian geographers are proud of the special privilege and congratulate Academician ENYEDI on this occasion.

TIBOR TINER