

IN MEMORIAM
CORNELIU DINU
(1944-2020)



Danube Delta, 1999. Photo courtesy of Prof. How Kin WONG

Corneliu Dinu, a bright figure of Romanian Geology, of Romanian science, left us after a life dedicated to Geology and to teaching of young specialists. A life in which Cornel, let me call him so, because we were bound by a warm friendship for many decades, which was based on the identical understanding of the basic notions of life, of human duty, of fairness and honesty and of professional interests, tried to give everything to society, to build and shape young people and specialists for the good of the country.

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Professor Corneliu Dinu's professional activity began in 1967 as a geological engineer at the Prospecting Enterprise. Since 1970, C. Dinu has worked in higher education, at the Institute of Oil, Gas and Geology, Faculty of Technical Geology, and then, after 1973, at the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geology and Geophysics. He climbed the teaching ranks so that, in 1993, he became a full professor, and after 2010, a professor emeritus. He has conducted 25 PhD theses, of which 7 abroad with double coordination. From 1995 until now, he has been a member of the Academia Europaea. In 1985 he received the "Grigore Cobălcescu" award of the Romanian Academy.

For 14 years (from 1990 to 2003) he had been dean of the Faculty of Geology and Geophysics, during which time the faculty experienced, thanks to his efforts, a flourishing standing like no other, when its international fame reached peak. In the period 1996-2012, he was president of the Bucharest Geoscience Forum and contributed essentially to raising the Forum to the highest international level. He has been a member of prestigious international societies and professional associations such as the American Association of

Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) and the Society of Exploration Geophysicists.

Prof. C. Dinu was one of the most eminent Romanian specialists in the fields of Structural Geology, Tectonics, Seismotectonics and Sedimentary Basin Dynamics. He learned from and then continued the tradition of eminent scientists in the field of Earth Sciences, such as Ion Băncilă, Gheorghe Murgeanu, Ion Dumitrescu, Vasile Lăzărescu and others. He has also worked for oil companies, having an excellent expertise in analyzing the hydrocarbon potential of various regions in Romania, including the Black Sea.

Professor Corneliu Dinu collaborated with the specialized institutes – the National Institute of Marine Geology and Geoecology - GeoEcoMar and the Geological Institute of Romania, bringing his contribution of expertise and creative power to the activities of these institutions.

Prof. C. Dinu collaborated also with the Romanian Academy, with the Department of Geonomic Sciences, for contributing or making specialised analyses and documents, requested by the Government, documents regarding the evaluation of the country's energy potential, and the

completion or more judicious drafting of official documents (laws and government decisions and ordinances). The last document written by Corneliu Dinu for the Romanian Academy, was the chapter "Tectonics" of the History of Geosciences in Romania. The Department of Geonomic Sciences has always relied entirely on collaboration with Professor C. Dinu, as a highly qualified expert, with extensive experience and great honesty.

By the disappearance of Professor Corneliu Dinu, the Romanian Geosciences suffer a heavy and painful loss. It will be particularly difficult to replace his experience and

knowledge. But it is even harder to break up with our friend Corneliu Dinu, the man we have relied on and supported in all our activity and existence for over 50 years since life and profession have brought us closer.

Sorrowful thoughts, sorrowful condolences to the Dinu family, especially to his wife Laura and daughter Irina. All our thoughts go to them and I would like to assure them that we will keep Cornel in mind and heart forever.

God rest his soul !

Prof Dr Nicolae Panin
Member of the Romanian Academy

ARTICLES IN EXTENSO

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