

OBITUARY

ISRAEL LIN – TEACHER, COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND 1940–1997



On October 27, 1997 Professor Israel Lin was suddenly taken from us. He was born and raised in Hadera. He received his B.Sc. with the high distinction degree from Technion in 1963 in the framework of the first class of Mineral Engineering. I. Lin continued in his post-graduate studies and in 1968 he received his D.Sc. on the topic *Adsorption of gases from aqueous solutions on mineral surfaces*.

Dr. Lin began his working carrier at the Technion as a teaching assistant in 1965, and thereafter he continued as an instructor, lecturer and senior lecturer, until he earned the appointment of Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Civil Engineering in 1976. From 1971 until his sudden death Professor Lin served most of the time as the Head of the Mineral Engineering Research Centre.

Professor Lin's research studies were widespread in a variety of topics; the primary interest was in mineral engineering while others extended to such diverse fields as recycling of industrial wastes, foods, water purification, surface active materials, design of solar ponds for the energy storage, and others. He investigated almost all potential natural resources of raw materials in the country: sand, phosphate, barite, clays, pigments and filler, perlite and vermiculites, kaolin, iron and water, as well as the use of fly ash.

Professor Lin studied mineral deposits abroad, such as diamonds and gold. Likewise, he was engaged in the studies of the ore dressing techniques for separation of minerals: decrease of size, hydrocyclones, magnetisation, flotation and surface chemistry. In these fields, Israel Lin guided his students in their research efforts towards their M.Sc. and D.Sc. degrees (more than 20 students). His many talents motivated the students, and he was considered an excellent teacher who devoted much of his time and patience to his students.

Until his last day, Israel Lin persisted in his scientific work which included 142 publications in professional journals, 125 papers which were presented and published at various scientific conferences, 118 scientific reports and 42 publications in commercial and general magazines. He was also a co-author of many inventions, of which 12 were registered as patents. One of his notable patents deals with production of alumina from coal ash.

Professor Lin was one of the leading professionals world-wide in his field of interest. He presented numerous invited lectures in Israel and abroad, and was a member of editorial boards of two professional journals, including *Magnetic and Electrical Separation*.

Israel Lin chose the field of mineral engineering as a challenge even though activity and resources in this area were small and slowly diminishing. He was very active and maintained intensive contacts with professional organisations (some of which he helped to establish) and industry, in order to advance profession of mineral engineering. He was, in fact, the primary source to whom one could refer at the Technion in his special field.

Israel had extraordinary managerial abilities which were demonstrated in organising conferences, initiating projects and making connections with industry and with academic staff in Israel and abroad. Furthermore, in the past several years he participated in the

advancement of a company that has applied an Israeli method of detecting and removing alumina from coal ash. He served as a director and a consultant of scientific technology for his company *Mishal Alumina Industries*.

His contributions will be missed by all.

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