

OBITUARY

NIKOLAI SEMENOVICH MOTSONELIDZE

Hydraulic engineering has suffered a great loss: Professor Nikolai Semenovitch Motsonelidze, doctor of technical sciences, prominent scientist, honored scientist of the Georgian SSR, and corresponding member of the Engineering Academy of Georgia, died on September 3, 1993 after a grave illness.

Nikolai Semenovitch was born on October 6, 1920. After graduating from the Georgian Industrial Institute he worked at various jobs in industry from 1943 to 1948.

From 1948 to the last days of his life his scientific and teaching activities were associated with the Georgian Polytechnic Institute (presently the Georgian Technical University). In 1950 he defended his candidate and in 1967 his doctoral dissertation.

For a number of years he worked as dean of the department of hydraulic engineering and sanitary engineering, was chairman of the specialized doctoral council, and from 1976 to 1991 was director of the department of hydraulic structures.

The main direction of the scientific activities of Prof. N. S. Motsonelidze was devoted to the theory of structures, particularly the strength, stability, dynamics, and seismicity of concrete gravity and buttress dams. He was one of the first to use matrix theory in methods of structural mechanics as applied to the aforementioned types of dams. On the basis of calculation methods developed he carried out thorough investigations to substantiate the seismic stability of the largest Soviet buttress dams — Andizhan and Kirovskoe.

N. S. Motsonelidze is known both as an excellent teacher and a specialist in educational methods, whose lectures were a great success among students. He, in particular, wrote the first Georgian textbooks: "Hydraulic Structures" (in two volumes) and "Seismic Stability of Hydraulic Structures." For a number of years N. S. Motsonelidze was a member of the presidium of the scientific—technical council for hydraulic engineering of the USSR Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education as well as of many union, republic, and regional councils and commissions for educational methods.

The memory of N. S. Motsonelidze, prominent scientist, excellent teacher, and remarkable person, will always be preserved in our hearts.