

## OBITUARY

### BORIS MIKHAILOVICH ISAEV

On June 15, 1989, at the age of 76, prominent Soviet scientist and manager, Laureate of the State Prize of the USSR, and Doctor of Technical Sciences Boris Mikhailovich Isaev died after a serious illness.

B. M. Isaev's works in the field of measurement of ionizing radiation and metrology brought him a great reputation in the USSR as well as abroad.

B. M. Isaev's first works on ionizing radiation measurement methods and its influence on biological objects were written just before World War II at the All-Union Institute of Experimental Medicine.

In 1946 B. M. Isaev, together with G. M. Frank, took part in establishing the Institute of Biophysics (Soviet Academy of Sciences) and became its associate director. There, B. M. Isaev and his co-workers developed the fundamentals of dosimetry and ionizing radiometry, and built the first Soviet dosimeters, which provided greater safety in nuclear industry. Boris Mikhailovich's investigations helped to establish scientifically justified safety standards for working with sources of ionizing radiation. At the same time, B. M. Isaev and his co-workers studied the possibility of using the first artificially synthesized radioactive elements in medicine and industry. The monograph "Methods of Investigating Ionizing Radiation," written by B. M. Isaev with V. I. Veksler and L. V. Groshev became a handbook for generations of nuclear physicists.

For several years in the 1950's, B. M. Isaev worked first as an associate director and later as the director at the Physicotechnical Institute, Sukhumi, where complex works developing experimental methods of nuclear physics were conducted.

As an associate director of the Institute of Biophysics, Soviet Academy of Sciences, B. M. Isaev, together with G. M. Frank, A. M. Kuzin, and N. P. Dubinin, completed a collection of works in dosimetry, radiation biology, and genetics that became evidence of the need to stop testing of nuclear weapons. B. M. Isaev's contribution as a scientific adviser to the International Atomic Energy Agency was valuable in the development of international cooperation in signing the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and developing peaceful uses of atomic energy. In 1965 B. M. Isaev became an associate director at the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Physicotechnical and Radiotechnical Measurements. Heading the Department of Ionizing Radiation there, Boris Mikhailovich became occupied with solving metrological problems in such fields as environmental protection, medical radiology, and atomic energy.

In 1968 B. M. Isaev was appointed to the Soviet Council of Ministers State Standards Committee as assistant chairman. There he guided the activity of metrological institutes and managed establishment of new standardization and metrology centers. With his cooperation, from 1969 to 1978 major works devoted to the establishment of new and updated State Standards were completed, as was the development of the State System for Ensuring the Unity of Measurements. During these years B. M. Isaev, being the chairman of the Metrological Section of the Council for Mutual Economic Aid and a member of the International Committee of Weights and Measures, actively participated in the development of international cooperation in the field of metrology.

From 1965 to his last days B. M. Isaev was a member of the editorial board of the journal "Measurement Techniques," and from 1969 to 1979 was its editor. His contributions in raising the scientific level of this journal were very valuable.

In 1977 Boris Mikhailovich retired, but he continued his scientific activity as a consultant. He worked for the scientific and industrial association of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Physicotechnical and Radiotechnical Measurements. He also headed the Ionizing Radiation Measurement Commission of the Scientific and Technical Council of the State Standards Committee. B. M. Isaev brought together many different kinds of specialized

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efforts in the development of a national method and the introduction of the international system of units in the fields of ionizing radiation measurement, radiation therapy dosimetry, and radiation safety.

Boris Mikhailovich twice won the State Prize of the USSR and was awarded two Orders of the Labor Red Banner and many medals.

Upon his death was lost a prominent scientist and manager, and an honest and principled communist who had won great respect and authority through his erudition, sharp mind, enthusiasm, and friendly nature.

The bright image of Boris Mikhailovich Isaev - wonderful person, teacher, and friend - will remain forever in the memory of many people, and the Editorial Board extends its deepest sympathies to his family and friends.