

## OBITUARY

IGOR' IVANOVICH CHERKASOV (1912-1988)

Soviet building science has suffered a major loss: the prominent specialist of soil dynamics, professor, doctor of Technical Sciences Igor' Ivanovich Cherkasov has died at the age of 76.

In the 1930s, after college, I. I. Cherkasov started working for the Air Force. He was involved in the building of dirt landing fields. His innovative ideas how to keep air fields operating independent of seasonal fluctuations were very important during World War II.

In the postwar years I. I. Cherkasov continued his investigations in soil dynamics working for different scientific-research institutes. He established a series of the field laboratories and the detailed method of soil testing by pressing in the stamp, based on separate estimation of the elastic and residual soil deformation, and their nonlinear tie with tension. Jointly with G. K. Klein he proposed a new model of soil foundation and developed the finding of the calculated contractibility of the soil foundations of the concrete covers. I. I. Cherkasov opened a range of new methods of soil strengthening with synthetic resins. He participated in the development of field equipment for determining soil density with the help of gamma rays. For a few years Igor' Ivanovich had studied frost heaving and made the tables for the prediction of frost heaving deformations. He conducted field and lab testing of salt corrosion, its foundations in the south of country, and suggested practical recommendations for dealing with this problem. The results of that and other of his research were generalized in over 200 published works.

I. I. Cherkasov was one of the founders of cosmic geodynamics. He participated in the first Soviet testing of lunar soil with the help of the automatic stations "Luna-13," "Luna-16," "Moonwalker-1," and also testing of the lunar regolith on the signals delivered to Earth. He investigated terrestrial analogs of lunar soil on Kamchatka volcanic ashes and slags. Cherkasov's monograph "Moon Soil Science" and other articles were devoted to this problem.

In his last years, I. I. Cherkasov concentrated on his pedagogical activities, being a professor and the chair of department.

Igor' Ivanovich actively collaborated with this journal. He was a supreme expert in soil dynamics and related fields.

He was a very good teacher, paying close attention to his students and followers, some of whom became chairmen and lab heads at Soviet and foreign scientific institutes.

The bright image of the talented, comprehensive scientist will forever remain in our memory.

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