OBITUARY

Academician Vadim Ivanovich Nefedov (1937–2008)

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The Russian science feels a grave sense of loss. The Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Inorganic Chemistry*, Academician Vadim Ivanovich Nefedov, an outstanding scientist in the area of the structure and nature of the chemical bond and physicochemistry of the surface of inorganic materials, a laureate of the State Prizes of the USSR and RSFSR, a holder of the Orders of the Labor Red Banner and the Sign of Honor, head of the Laboratory of Electron Spectroscopy of the Kurnakov Institute of General and Inorganic Chemistry of the RAS, died on June 2008 after a serious illness.

Mr. Nefedov was born on June 29, 1937 in Magnitogorsk. He graduated from the Leipzig Marx University in 1962 and completed his postgraduate education in 1965 at the Moscow Lomonosov Institute of Fine Chemical Technology. Since 1966 his scientific activity was inseparable from the RAS Institute of General and Inorganic Chemistry (IGICH), where he had passed the road from a junior researcher to a leader of a laboratory.

Mr. Nefedov made an enormous contribution to the development of the theory of the chemical bond and developed the method of qualitative x-ray electron analysis of the solid objects' surface. He headed the work of research into the lunar regolite, where the presence of small-dispersed metallic iron stable to superficial oxidation was found. It was one of the first confirmations (1972) of nanoparticles' stability with respect to oxidation. The above outcome was registered as a scientific discovery. The developed method for analyzing the surface and determining the parameters of the elements' sensitivity gained wide recognition in our country and abroad. Application of this method in the Laboratory of Electron Spectroscopy at the IGICH

helped solve a series of great basic and applied problems.

In the recent years Mr Nefedov and his coworkers developed a universal classification of nanoparticles, which enabled their target search.

Mr. Nefedov's list of published scientific works embraces more than 400 items, including 10 monographs. He headed the Leading Scientific School of the Russian Federation on x-ray electron spectroscopy. Many of his students defended their doctoral and candidate dissertations and became professors.

Mr. Nefedov combined his research and teaching activity with an intensive scientific-organizational burden as deputy chairman of the RAS Scientific Council on Inorganic Chemistry, editor-in-chief of *Inorganic Materials*, a member of editorial boards of Russian and international journals, such as *Zurnal neorganicheskoi khimii*, *Doklady Akademii nauk*, *Poverkhnost'*, *Journal of Electron Spectroscopy and Related Phenomena*.

Mr. Nefedov's name is widely-known in Russia and beyond its borders. He was awarded the International Roentgen Prize and Humboldt Foundation Prizes.

The talent of a prominent scientist was harmoniously matched in him by his high spirituality and love for fine arts.

It is a grievous thought for all of us to admit that our colleague and friend and a true scientist is no more with us, and his passing is an irrecoverable loss to the whole scientific community of our country.

The editorial collegium and the editorial board of the journal *Inorganic Chemistry* offer their deep condolences to Valdimir Inanovich's family and relatives on their loss. His memory will live on for ever in our hearts.