

The WPhC- award 2010 Dr. Zsuzsanna Rajkovits

During the congress of the Federation it was a great pleasure for me to hand the WPhC-award 2010 to Dr. Zsuzsanna Rajkovits from the Öetvös Lorand University of Budapest, Hungary, for her outstanding achievements in the education of physics. For me the pleasure was double because I think Dr.Rajkovits, who largely contributed and still contributes to the aims of the Federation, not only deserves the prize, but for me it was also because of personal reasons that I was happy about her to receive the award. More than two decades ago we met for the first time when we were visiting the museum of the Kremlin as part of an excursion of the International Young Physicists' Tournament. Soon it became clear that our ideas about education and most of all our mutual fascination for physics, created a natural bond between us both. That bond has remained unchanged ever since. From very close I know how much effort and enthusiasm Zsuzsa puts into her work for physics education. Her contributions in various competitions as well as in presentations and articles are numerous.



In 1994 Zsuzsa created, together with colleague Dr. L. Markovich, a new competition called the International Conference of Young Scientists. This competition aims to give the floor to youngsters to present the results of their research in a similar way as 'real' researchers do during international conferences, as is stated in article 1.1.: "The International Conference of Young Scientists (ICYS) is essentially an individual competition on scientific research and presentations carried out by school students

which are evaluated by the International Jury.” Very often the participants show their fascination for the subject they have researched by presentations that can easily meet the standard of professionals. The way in which they discuss about different topics of their presentation not seldom show profound knowledge and enthusiasm. An important aspect of the conference is that the participants are stimulated to meet and make contacts, and in some cases friendships are created for the rest of their lives. The ICYS is a very successful and truly international competition in which now some 200 participants from all over the world participate.

When Zsuzsa was asked to spend her efforts for the World Federation of Physics Competitions, she did not hesitate for a second and agreed to become vice-president, a position which she occupies till today. As a member of the Executive Committee she co-organized the past congresses and ever since then she gave presentations herself during these congresses. Many articles for the journal of the Federation: “Physics Competitions” appeared from her hand.

The decision by the award committee of the WFPPhC on who should receive the award in 2010 was unanimous. This decision was welcomed with a warm applause by all the participants of the 4th Congress of the Federation in 2010 in Baske Ostarija, Croatia.

Hans Jordens