

LAUDATIO

On the occasion of the investiture of
Professor (mult.) Dr. habil. **Harald DILL**
of the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR),
Hannover,
with the degree of *Doctor Honoris Causa*
of Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași

30 May 2013

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Laudatio

In honour of

Professor (mult.) Dr. habil. **Harald DILL**,

The Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR),
Hannover

Dear Rector,

Dear President of the Senate, members of the Senate, distinguished
guests,

We have the great honour today of paying homage to one of the most renowned German geologists – researcher and Professor Harald Dill from the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR), Hannover, the geoscientific centre of excellence within the German federal government.

Born on February 19, 1949 in Marlesreuth-Naila, Northern Bavaria, Professor Harald Dill pursued a BA and an MA degree at the University of Würzburg between 1971 and 1975; he then received his PhD from the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg in 1978. He obtained his first title of Habilitated Doctor from the University of Mainz in 1985 and a second habilitation from the University of Hannover in 1988.

In 1978, Professor Harald Dill began his career at the University of Bayreuth, as a researcher of the Department of Soil Sciences and Soil Geography. Between 1979 and 1985, he was the main geologist of the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR), Hannover, working in the fields of theoretical geophysics, radiometric dating and the physics of isotopes. Between 1986 and 1991 he was part of the management team for the Continental Deep Drilling Project of the Federal Republic of Germany, coordinating complex geochemistry, mineralogy and economic geology studies. In 1991, Professor Dill returned to the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR), Hannover, where, until 2008, he was part of the Division for International Cooperation and Economic Geology, coordinating projects with various European universities in the fields of sedimentology and economic geology. In 2009, he starts working in the division called Ground Water and Soil.

In 1982, Professor Harald Dill started his academic career by working as an assistant lecturer and then as an associate professor of the University of Mainz and, since 1988, of the University of Hannover, as well. Since 1991 he has been delivering lectures at a BA and MA level within the Department of Mineralogy of the University of Hannover and has been the scientific advisor of many MA and PhD theses. He has also been part of numerous PhD dissertation defence committees in both Germany and abroad, and delivered conference papers at the Munich University of the Federal Armed Forces, Germany (1998), Chulalongkorn University, Thailand (1999), The Mongolian University of Science and Technology (2000), Doha College, Qatar (2001), Brandenburg Technical University, Germany (2002),

Vilnius University, Lithuania (2003), University of Malawi (2004), National University of Uzbekistan (2004), Riga Technical University, Latvia (2004), Al-Ahliyya Amman University, Jordan (2007-2008), University of Tunis (2007), Hanoi University of Technology (2008), National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece (2009), Bahía Blanca University, Argentina (2010), National University of Bogota, Colombia (2011), Central University of Venezuela (2011), Venezuela Geological Service (2011), Izmir University, Turkey (2012) and the Korean Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources, Daejeon (2011, 2012, 2013).

The courses taught by Professor Harald Dill dealt with such topics as: principles of sedimentology, minerals and calcareous rocks, applied sedimentology, the analysis of heavy minerals in sedimentary rocks, minerals and gemstones, and minerals and sedimentary rocks in thin sections. He also conducted numerous field research projects concerning applications of portable IR spectrometry, XRF spectrometry, magnetometry, gamma spectrometry or concerning instrumental methods in applied mineralogy, sedimentology, environmental geology or in the analysis of industrial minerals and gemstones.

Professor Dill's expertise was requested by various national and international companies, such as: Uranerzbergbau, Gewerkschaft Brunhilde, Esso Erz, BP Minerals, Saarberg Interplan Uran and Urangesellschaft in Germany (explorations for uranium ore), CIMEX, Germany (decorative aggregates and rocks), Teichmann Schieferbergbau, Germany (roofing slates), Montecatini Edison/

Solmine, Italy (pyrite, zinc, plumb), BAPEX, Bangladesh (petroleum), Minijos Nafta, Lithuania (petroleum).

Since 1976, Professor Harald Dill published 280 papers (164 of them in ISI and SCOPUS indexed journals), especially in the following fields: Economic Geology, Applied Sedimentology, Geomorphology and Technical Mineralogy. One of these papers (published in June 2010) is actually a 420-page book that has been highly successful in the scientific community because it uses the algebraic chess notation to categorise all the useful mineral deposits on Earth. This book, titled *The "Chessboard" Classification Scheme of Mineral Deposits: Mineralogy and Geology From Aluminium to Zirconium*, published in *Earth-Science Reviews*, Vol. 100, Issues 1–4, is ranked by Science Direct among the 25 most read ISI articles; the classification took into account all 110 ISI journals published worldwide in the field of Earth Sciences, and Professor Harald's book ranked second in 2010 (immediately after its publication) and in 2011, and 11th in 2012. It is also noteworthy that, according to its impact factor (6.594), the journal in which it was published is ranked sixth of all the ISI publications in the field of Earth Sciences (after the journals *Nature*, *Science*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Nature Geoscience* and *Reviews of Geophysics*).

Professor Harald Dill was also the author or editor of four other books, two of them on his field of expertise and the other two about the Bavarian aerial wars; likewise, he authored twelve chapters in speciality books published by prestigious publishing houses in Germany, Russia, Great Britain etc.

The recognition of Professor Harald Dill's scientific activity is reflected by the hundreds of ISI citations and an h-index of 13, taking into account only the papers published after 1995. The results of Professor Dill's research have been edited in 56 ISI journals, many of them being highly prestigious in the domain of Earth Sciences, for instance Earth-Science Reviews, Mineralogy & Petrology, Chemical Geology, Mineralium Deposita etc.

Professor Harald Dill is an expert reviewer for numerous internationally acclaimed scientific journals, such as Ore Geology Review, European Journal of Mineralogy, International Journal of Earth Sciences, Sedimentary Geology, Canadian Mineralogist, American Mineralogist, Clay Minerals, Journal of Geochemical Exploration, Mineralogical Magazine etc.

In over 35 years of activity, Professor Dill has accumulated outstanding experience in Regional Geology by means of research, field excursions and applications in Bulgaria, Brazil, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Malawi, Namibia, Tunisia, South Africa, Argentina, Montserrat (UK), Falkland Islands (UK), South Georgia (UK), Saint Kitts and Nevis and Sint Maarten in the Caribbean, El Salvador, Morocco, Sudan, Qatar, Oman, Nepal, Bangladesh, Botswana, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Mongolia, Malaysia, Moldova, Australia, Kuwait, Germany, Austria, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Lithuania, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Antarctica, Poland, Spain, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Andorra, Malta, Uzbekistan, United States of America, Canada, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Ireland, Finland, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Ukraine,

Romania, Greece, Switzerland, Portugal, Iceland, Latvia, Cyprus, Armenia, Turkey, Venezuela, Estonia, Russia, South Korea and Colombia.

Professor Harald Dill has participated in numerous projects and grants financed by both governmental and international organisations. Professor Dill is also a member of the selection committee for The German National Academic Foundation (Studienstiftung).

For the geological research conducted in Malawi, in 2004 Professor Harald Dill was awarded the Quintino Sella Prize, granted on the occasion of the 32nd International Geological Congress held in Florence.

We hereby make a mention of the fact that Professor Dill has discovered some deposits of raw materials in Germany (pegmatite with Scandium lazuli near Hagendorf and oil in sediments of the Upper Carboniferous Period in Weiden), in Mongolia (bentonite in the Gobi Desert) and in Qatar (Celestine near the road of Salwa-Doha).

Looking at the cooperation Professor Harald Dill had with professors or students of Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, we would like to mention that he has held a number of 6 lectures on topical issues at the Faculty of Geography and Geology in November 2010, and, between 2010 and 2012, Professor Dill has been one of the scientific advisors of a doctoral student of the Department of Geography, whom he hosted in Hannover for three months (September to December 2011), within the POSDRU 47646 Project.

Professor Harald Dill was a member of the commission appointed by the decision of the Rector to review the doctoral thesis of Mr. Sorin Ionuț Balaban. Professor Dill also took part in the public defence of the aforementioned thesis, which was held place in September 2012. Two doctoral students of the Department of Geology will benefit this year of a three-month LLP Erasmus internship at the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources in Hannover.

Starting with the academic year 2010 – 2011, Professor Harald Dill has been an Associate Professor at Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, and a member of the Editorial Committee for the University Scientific Annals, the Geology series. We would also like to mention here the collaboration Professor Dill has had, since 1993, with the experts of the Geological Institute of Romania for the making of the Geochemical Atlas of Romania (to a 1: 3.000.000 scale), which was finished and published in a limited number of copies in 2006.

Moreover, Professor Dill participated in a vast number of field campaigns, during which 172 samples of water or river sediments have been collected, and then analysed in Hannover. Professor Dill has also visited several places of geological interest in Romania, such as the field deposits of Moldova Nouă, Roșia Poieni, Roșia Montană, Căzănești, Cavnic, Șuior, Baia Sprie, Valea Ampoiului, Mănăila and many others. As a token of the interest Professor Dill has shown towards the geology of our country, it is worth mentioning his participation in a practical application organised in Romania upon the International Mineralogy Symposium, held at the time in Budapest (Romania was then co-organiser).

Professor Harald Dill has been interested in the mineralogy and geochemistry of the siliciclastic rocks of Eastern Carpathians' foreland and in the mineralogy and geochemistry of mine tailings associated with deposits of polymetallic ore of the Tulgheş group; these interests materialised in the publication of a number of scientific papers as first author or co-author (two ISI papers and two papers indexed BDI) in which professors, researchers and doctoral students of the Department of Geology have been co-opted: Professor dr. Ovidiu Gabriel Iancu, Lecturer dr. Dumitru Bulgariu, Dr. Viorel Ionesi, Dr. Smaranda Sârbu, Dr. Sorin Ionuţ Balaban and PhD student Ionuţ Mihai Prundeanu.

For the exceptional contribution Professor Harald Dill has made to the development of Geological Sciences, for his remarkable achievements in the fields of Economic Geology, Applied Sedimentology, Geomorphology and Technical Mineralogy, for the role he played in developing relations of cooperation with Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iaşi, for the warmth, trust and professionalism offered in his relations with Romanian colleagues, we hereby confer the academic title of DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA of Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iaşi to Professor (mult.) Dr. Habil. Harald DILL, from the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources in Hannover, Germany.

COMMISSION:

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Dean of the Faculty of Geology and Geophysics, University of Bucharest

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Director of the Department of Mineralogy, University of Bucharest

Iași, 30 May, 2013

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