

## NSF Geosciences Advisory Committee Solicits Input

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The Geosciences Advisory Committee of the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) is soliciting the views and concerns of the geosciences community in advance of the committee's spring meeting, scheduled for 28–30 April at NSF headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. At this meeting, the committee will consider current and future geoscience plans and programs, priority areas in cooperation

with other NSF directorates, and additional issues of relevance to the community.

The chair and members welcome and solicit the views and concerns of the geosciences community so they may better represent their constituencies at upcoming meetings of the committee.

To contact current members or to obtain additional information about the Geosciences Advisory Committee, including meeting summaries and agenda, visit the committee

Web site at: <http://www.geo.nsf.gov/geo/about/advisory.htm>.

The NSF Directorate for Geosciences, through its divisions of atmospheric, Earth, and ocean sciences, supports a broad range of innovative research focusing on understanding and predicting Earth's environment and its habitability. The Advisory Committee consists of representatives of the geosciences community who serve terms of 3 years. The current chair is Robert Detrick of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Massachusetts.

# GEOFYSICISTS

## Kâzım Ergin (1915–2002)

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Kâzım Ergin (Mehmet Kâzım Ergin), known to his colleagues and students as Kazım Hoca, was a Turkish geophysicist whose theoretical and experimental research contributed to many aspects of geophysics. He was also an important figure in advancing teaching of the geosciences in Turkey in the decades after World War II, both as an instructor and an administrator. He died on 24 November 2002 on Teachers' Day, an annual holiday in Turkey, when many of his former students and colleagues regularly phoned or visited him. He will always be remembered as one of the pioneering figures in the development of the Earth sciences in Turkey, for his individual contributions as a university teacher and administrator, and for his influence on his colleagues and students.

Ergin was born on 21 May 1915 in Gaziantep, in southeastern Turkey. He completed his primary, secondary, and high school education in Gaziantep under difficult conditions, with many interruptions due to French occupation of the city during World War I. After completing his basic education, he received his B.Sc. degree in mathematics at Istanbul University. In June 1937, he was sent by the Mineral Research and Exploration Institute of Turkey (MTA) to study mining, metallurgical, and petroleum engineering at Freiberg Bergakademie near Dresden, Germany. His studies were interrupted by World War II, but he moved to the United States to continue his education. He studied geophysics and geology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and received his B.Sc. degree in geological sciences there on 18 December 1942. In the meantime, he began studying for his M.Sc. degree with Beno Gutenberg at the California Institute of Technology and obtained the degree in 1943. After Ergin obtained his master's degree, Gutenberg suggested he study seismic wave reflection and refraction at the rock-water interface for a Ph.D. degree. Unfortunately, MTA Institute requested his return to Turkey because his services were needed.

After moving back to Turkey, from 1943 through 1949, he used geophysical methods to investigate

mineral deposits and petroleum-related structures throughout the country for MTA Institute. Finally, in 1949, he obtained a scholarship from the Institute to return to Caltech and completed his Ph.D. degree in geophysics and mathematics on 9 June 1950, with a dissertation on the partition of seismic energy between P and S waves at a rock-water boundary, and on recorded ground motion due to P, PcP, S, and ScS waves.

Ergin worked at Caltech as a research fellow for a while and then returned to Turkey. He was appointed as director of the Department of Geology at MTA Institute on March 1953 and served until 1956 on various important projects.

On 15 June 1956, he was appointed as professor of geophysics at the Faculty of Mining Engineering of Istanbul Technical University (ITU), where he established a modern department of geophysical engineering and trained many students over the years. He officially retired from ITU in 1982.

In addition to his activities as an instructor and administrator, Ergin also used his training to make contributions to the development of the post-War Turkish economy. In 1953–1955, he played an important role in the identification of economically viable petroleum deposits in the southeastern part of the country. This led to some of Turkey's earliest commercial production. In 1958, he was part of the team that discovered Turkey's largest copper deposits.

Ergin also served in high-level administrative capacities at various institutions. After the establishment by the government in 1963 of the Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK), he was one of the early appointees to its engineering research group. He was eventually elected chairman of the Scientific Board of TÜBİTAK, a capacity in which he served until he retired in 1979. Ergin also served as director of Istanbul Technical University; as a member of the NATO Science Committee Executive Council and of its Scientific Board; as a member of the Executive Council of the European Science Foundation (where he was Turkey's first representative); and as an Executive Council rapporteur for the UNESCO Working Group on Seismicity and Seismotectonics.



Ergin was a well-liked and an effective scientist and director. Under his leadership, the Geophysics Department at ITU played a major role in establishing the geophysical sciences in Turkey. In 1992, TÜBİTAK honored him with a prestigious service award for his lifetime of contributions to the establishment and development of the geophysical sciences in Turkey.

As a teacher, Ergin was very concerned with the welfare of his students and colleagues and went to great trouble to find them good positions. He gathered a large collection of scientific books and periodicals over the years, which he donated to the Department of Geophysics library at ITU; this is now known as Kâzım Ergin Kitaplığı.

Ergin will be greatly missed. Those who had the good fortune of having been associated with him truly appreciate the benevolence of this extraordinary man. He was an outstanding humanitarian and an esteemed scientist. Members of his family, his students, and colleagues will always remember him with love, admiration, appreciation, and a deep sense of indebtedness and gratitude.

Ergin married Remziye Melek, a wonderful lady and soulmate for 57 years. Their daughter Füsün and her husband Ümit Özgüner are both professors at Ohio State University; their son Bülent, a computer sciences expert, and his wife Catherine live in Lyon, France. Ergin is also survived by six grandchildren.

—TUNCAY TAYMAZ, Istanbul Technical University, Turkey