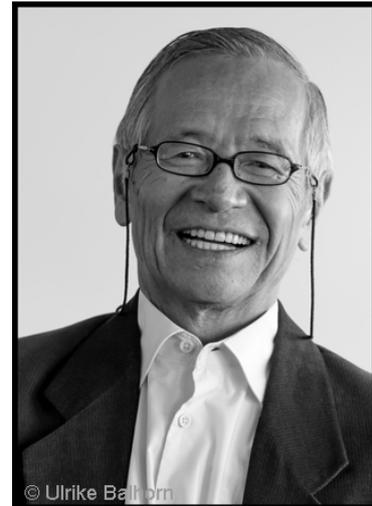


In honor of Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil. Dr. h.c. Kyong-Tschong Rie

On May 22nd, 2021, two days after his 85th birthday, Prof. K.-T. Rie, the long-time chairman of the European Joint Committee on Plasma and Ion Surface Engineering "EJC/PISE" and founder of the International Conference on Plasma Surface Engineering "PSE", passed away.



Prof. Rie has given significant impulses for modern surface engineering in Germany. He established the Institute for Surface Engineering and Plasma Materials Development IOPW (today IOT) at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at the Technische Universität Braunschweig in 1990 as an important pillar of plasma-based surface engineering at this site.

In 1959, Rie came to Germany - "a young student with a suitcase full of hope," as he writes in his memoirs "Und dennoch blüht die Jindalle!" (And yet the Jindalle is blooming!). In Aachen, he dedicated himself to research work in the field of radiation damage in metals and earned his doctorate on this subject. A one-year stay in the USA was followed in 1967 by a move to the Technische Universität Braunschweig, where Rie initially worked in the Institute of Welding Technology and habilitated in 1974. In 1990 he received a C4 professorship at the same time as the founding of the IOPW. In the 1990s, K.-T. Rie qualified as an internationally recognized expert in material fatigue (low cycle fatigue), plasma diffusion treatment and plasma assisted chemical vapor deposition (PACVD). Already in 1983 he had taken the initiative to found the "Arbeitskreis Plasmaoberflächentechnologie" (today: Plasma Germany), followed shortly afterwards by the foundation of the EJC/PISE. PSE, launched by Rie in 1988, developed over the following decades into one of the most successful conferences in the field of plasma surface technology worldwide. In cooperation with the Korean scientist Prof. J.G. Han, the Asian counterpart to the PSE was established in 1997. The AEPSE is held every two years mainly in Prof. Rie's native South Korea. At AEPSE 2017, he received a special lifetime achievement award.

The memoirs of K.-T. Rie, in which his private life also occupies a large space, reveal his deep Christian basic attitude, which let him find comfort again and again even after bad strokes of fate. We have lost an outstanding scientist, committed colleague and likeable person, whose memory we will always honor.



Günter Bräuer



Michael Thomas