

2018 May 9

## In Memoriam



ALEKSAKHIN Rudolf Mikhailovich – PhD, DSc, professor, member of the Russian Academy of Science, participant of post-accident recovery in the Southern Urals accident (1957) and the Chernobyl Atomic Power Station accident (1986), laureate of the State Prizes of USSR and Russian Federation, the Order of Friendship of People, the Order of Honor awardee, and former Member of the ICRP Main Commission, passed away on May 2, 2018.

Dr Aleksakhin was born on December 15, 1936 in Kaliningrad and graduated from Moscow State University in 1959. He worked at the laboratory of Biophysics at that institution from graduation until 1961, and in the Laboratory of Forest Science at the Academy of Science until 1966. He later joined the Scientific and Technical Council of the Ministry of Middle Mechanic Engineering of USSR until 1975 before taking his experiences and expertise to the National Radiology and

Agroecology Research Institute, becoming the supervisor of the Institute in 2015.

The work of Dr Aleksakhin was heavily focused on radioecology, receiving widespread recognition for his achievements. In 1959, he started research at the experimental station of Mayak Production Association, where he performed a number of unique research projects in radionuclide migration in forest biogeocenoses, in addition to the effects of ionising radiation on forest ecosystems.

For over 30 years, Dr Aleksakhin was associated with studying the consequences of the Chernobyl accident, and more recently was involved in the aftermath of the 2011 accident in Fukushima, Japan. He has authored numerous recommendations and publications on farming production in contaminated conditions.

Dr Aleksakhin was the author of more than 900 scientific publications, including 22 monographs. He was a member of 11 editorial boards, the Presidium Rosatom's Scientific and Technical Council and Rosatom's Public Council, the Russian Academy of Science Scientific Council office in radiobiology, and the vice-chairman of NCRP of Russia. He was the academician of the Ukrainian National Academy of Agricultural Sciences and held positions with the IAEA and UNSCEAR. From 1977 to 1985, and again from 1997 to 2001, he was a valued member of ICRP Committee 4. Afterwards, he joined the Main Commission for 2001 to 2005. He also worked on several ICRP publications including, most recently, *Publication 91* A Framework for Assessing the Impact of Ionising Radiation on Non-human Species (2003).