

Memorial of Prof. Abraham Warszawski

Abraham Warszawski, former Head of the National Building Research Institute of Israel and Professor at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology died January 2, 2011. Abe was the 2005 recipient of the Peurifoy Construction Research Award. ASCE honored him together with Ronie Navon with the Norman Medal in 1993.

Professor Warszawski was one of the foremost international experts in the fields of industrialization and automation in building. In 1974 he established at the Technion – I.I.T. the Center for Industrialization of Building. He introduced teaching of industrialized building as a regular subject of undergraduate and graduate studies at the Technion. He also taught industrialized building courses in the US at North Carolina State University, University of Texas, and University of Illinois, and in Mexico and Hong Kong Universities. He was the first to teach these subjects from the managerial, and not a purely technological, viewpoint.

At the Technion Professor Warszawski introduced automation in building as a separate subject of graduate studies and as elements of several subjects in the undergraduate studies. He attracted to his studies in industrialization and automation a large number of graduate students. Some of them later taught Industrialization and Robotics in US Universities. To advance construction automation practice and education he hosted the fourth ISARC in 1987 and in 1994 and 1998 he hosted A. J. Etkin International Seminars at the Technion. These events brought together prominent construction academicians to discuss “Strategic Planning in Construction” and "Education in Construction Management.”

We have lost one of our great men and he will be sorely missed.

Ronie Navon

Cliff Schexnayder