

## OBITUARY

**Dr. Friedrich K. Bender  
(1924-2008)**



Friedrich K. Bender studied Geology in Stuttgart, Tübingen and Heidelberg, Germany, and received his Doctorate degree from Heidelberg University. Immediately he joined a mining company involved with iron-ore exploitation in Germany. After 6 years he moved to BRIGITTA Oil and Gas Enterprise and started his career as a petroleum geologist. Between 1952 and 1956 he worked for MTA and TPAO in Turkey and moved to PETROBRAS in 1956.

In 1958 he joined the Federal Geological Survey of Germany, later Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) in Hannover. Short assignments in Paraguay and Italy followed, before he was sent as head of a geological mission to Jordan. Their work resulted in the foundation of a national geological survey. Regional geological mapping yielded a 6 sheet geological map of the kingdom and the discovery of extended high percentage oil-shale and phosphate, mined today as an important earner of foreign currency. From this assignment, which lasted until 1968, resulted his high esteem for the Arab people and King Hussein of Jordan decorated him in 1966 with the highest order of the Kingdom.

In 1986 he was promoted to Director of the "Regional Geology" Department in BGR. His appointment brought him to all important international conferences and valuable contacts and friendships with colleagues from around the world were established. These contacts very often resulted in international cooperation projects with other geo-institutions. In this capacity he became a valuable advisor for the Federal Ministry for Cooperation.

In 1970 he became the German representative of the Working Party of Senior Geologists and the Subcommittee on Mineral Resources Development of the ECAFE-countries resulting in an increasing BGR engagement in the ECAFE region. In the following years he visited all these countries, among them Pakistan. The German Government awarded him the Great Order of Merit in 1972.

In 1972 he became responsible for the "Petroleum and Natural Gas" Department as well and an increasing number of cooperation projects in Pakistan, Burma (Myanmar) and other countries followed. The activities of BGR increased abroad and in Germany. Restlessly, he pursued the activities of BGR, increased its capacities and shaped a modern, internationally engaged geo-scientific survey. At times more than 70 of BGR staff worked abroad in different assignments.

In 1975 he became President of the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Raw Materials (BGR) and in due course Editor of the "Regional Geology of the Earth" series of regional geological textbooks. Among those he was co-author of the Geology of Jordan (1974), Geology of Burma (1983) and the Geology of Pakistan (1995).

Dr. Friedrich Bender retired due to health reasons in 1985 from BGR. But even during retirement, he remained a restless and dedicated worker in the field of geology, leaving more than 200 publications as author and co-author to his credit.

Professor Bender was the founder of Pakistan-German cooperation for the capacity building of Hydrocarbon Development Institute of Pakistan that lasted for 10 years from 1984 to 1994. Jointly with Mr. Hilal A. Raza, he initiated the idea of writing the first ever book on Geology of Pakistan that was published in 1995. Professor Bender visited Pakistan several times and also advised the Geological Survey of Pakistan. We owe a gratitude to Prof. F. K. Bender for his high degree of professionalism and his support to the advancement of geoscientific developments and institution building in Pakistan.