

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IVAR-JÜRI SIIMON (9.02.1937–20.11.1998) IN MEMORIAM

I.-J. Siimon has left a deep imprint on the history of the Faculty of Economics as a researcher, teaching staff and head. He received a Candidate of Sciences degree (*Kandidat nauk*), was invited to the position of an assistant professor and worked as a vice-dean and head of Chair. Ivar Siimon spent his childhood in Kehtna and Polli, his school-years in Haapsalu. In 1957 he began studies in Tallinn Marine School, from where he was called into service at the Soviet Army. In 1960 he demobilised and commenced studies at Tartu State University. An important area of I. Siimon's research for years to come – public catering – originated from his thesis. In 1965, he graduated from the university with a degree in food product commodities and started working as a junior researcher in the Laboratory of Commerce. Ivar Siimon was one of the first who received a USSR Ministry of Higher Education scholarship for training at Leipzig Karl Marx University (15.12.1967–15.10.1968). This was followed by a stationary postgraduate study period (*aspirantura*).

I. Siimon defended his substantial candidate's dissertation (453 pages) on the topic of *Problems with locality based catering of population (in the example of Estonian SSR)* on 25th May 1973. He had to compile a thorough abstract in Russian (68 pages), which was sent to 102 addressees overall. He became a part of permanent teaching staff on 29th December 1972, when he was elected senior lecturer at the Chair of Commodities and Organisation of Trade. His societal activity is illustrated by the fact that he was assigned the role of vice dean for educational work of students and lead the groups of EÜE (*Estonian Students' Building Troop*). As of 1977, he was employed as an acting assistant professor. I. Siimon received an invitation to become an assistant professor from Moscow on 2nd March 1982, therefore, 9 years after defending candidate's degree. He was elected head of chair on 28th September 1984. His research results have also been published as monographies of laboratory of commerce and research articles under a different field – problems of food product assortment and quality. Ivar Siimon initiated contacts and kept in touch with economists from University of Vilnius and University of Latvia and was one of the initiators, organisers, advisors and active participants of Estonian Trade Students' Union Hermes.

When Estonia became independent again, Ivar Siimon actively took part in developing the initial versions of trade programmes, consumer protection and trade act of the Self-Managing Estonia (the Estonian abbreviation IME). As of 1993 he became interested in tourism as his new area of research and teaching. He was the first and only visiting professor with a candidate's degree at Pärnu College and published teaching materials. Ivar Siimon strived actively until the very end. In June 1998, he attended a conference in Värskä, worked on his teaching material *Product and Product Strategy* (was published posthumously in 2000), conducted teaching until mid-October at University of Tartu and Pärnu College, was preparing to attend a research conference in Vilnius. Ivar Siimon passed away on 20 November 1998.

Aino Siimon