

The Extraordinary Hydrogen Romantic – The Story of Dr. T. Nejat Veziroglu

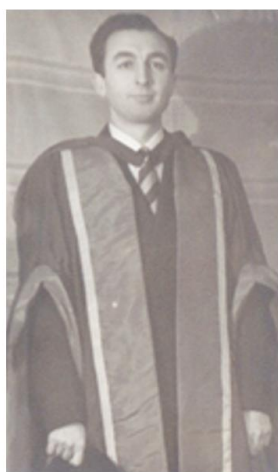


The Hydrogen Romantic

The story of The Extraordinary Hydrogen Romantic honors a creative visionary and richly gifted academic scholar who moved easily from heat transfer analysis of thermal contact conductance, to boiling heat and mass transfer to becoming the father of hydrogen energy.

Dr. Veziroglu, a native of Turkey, graduated from the City and Guilds College, the Imperial College of Science and Technology at the University of London with degrees in Mechanical Engineering (A.C.G.I., B.Sc.) in 1946, Advanced Studies in Engineering (D.I.C.) in 1947 and Heat Transfer (Ph.D.) in 1951. At the University of London, he studied under the legendary giants of heat transfer, Professors Margaret Fishenden and Sir Owen Alfred Saunders, both had followed in the footsteps of another giant in science and technology, Lord Ernest Rutherford. Dr. Margaret Fishenden had worked with Lord Rutherford at the University of Manchester and several years later Sir Owen Saunders had studied under Lord Rutherford at Cambridge University.

In 1962, after doing his military service in the Turkish Ordnance Section, serving in some Turkish government agencies and leading a private company in Turkey, Dr. Veziroglu joined the University of Miami Engineering Faculty. In 1965, he became the Director of Graduate Studies and initiated the first Ph.D. Program in the School of Engineering and Architecture. He served as Chairman of the Department of Mechanical Engineering 1971 through 1975, in 1973 established the Clean Energy Research Institute (CERI), and was the Associate Dean for Research 1975 through 1979 at the University of Miami. He took a three years Leave of Absence (2004 through 2007) and founded the United Nations Industrial Development Organization – International Centre for Hydrogen Energy Technologies (UNIDO-ICHET) in Istanbul, Turkey. On 15 May 2009, he retired from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida, at the age of 85 years. And on 1 March 2019, he retired as the founding president of the International Association for Hydrogen Energy at the age of 95 years.



Graduate from University of London



Wedding: Bengi and Nejat Veziroglu



Nejat at the office

Dr. Veziroglu organized the first major international conference on hydrogen energy: The Hydrogen Economy Miami Energy (THEME) conference in Miami Beach, Florida, on 18-20 March 1974. At the opening of the THEME conference, Dr. Veziroglu proposed the Hydrogen Energy System as a permanent solution for the depletion of the fossil fuels and the environmental problems caused by their utilization, with help from other visionary in hydrogen energy systems, such as Dr. Tokio Ohta from Japan who had helped establish the Hydrogen Energy Research Society one year earlier, which later became the Hydrogen Energy Systems Society of Japan (HESS). Soon after the THEME conference, the International Association for Hydrogen Energy (IAHE) was established, and Dr. Veziroglu was elected the founding president. As President of IAHE, in 1976, he initiated the biennial World Hydrogen Energy Conference (WHEC), and in 2005, the biennial World Hydrogen Technologies Convention (WHTC). In 1976, Dr. Veziroglu started the publication of the International Journal of Hydrogen Energy (IJHE) as its founding Editor-in-Chief, in order to publish and disseminate hydrogen energy related research and development results from around the world.





Miami Beach Conference with Dr. V



Recent family photo (Ayfer, Lili and Dr. V.)

Dr. Veziroglu has published more than 350 papers and scientific reports, edited 160 volumes of books and proceedings, and has co-authored the book “Solar Hydrogen Energy: The Power to Save the Earth”. Dr. Veziroglu has memberships in eighteen scientific organizations, has been elected to the Grade of Fellow in the British Institution of Mechanical Engineers, American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and is the Founding President of the International Association for Hydrogen Energy. Dr. Veziroglu has been the recipient of several international awards. He was presented the Turkish Presidential Science Award in 1974, made an Honorary Professor in Xian Jiaotong University of China in 1981, awarded the I. V. Kurchatov Medal by the Kurchatov Institute of Atomic Energy of U.S.S.R. in 1982, the Energy for Mankind Award by the Global Energy Society in 1986, and elected to the Argentinean Academy of Sciences in 1988. In 2000, he was nominated for Nobel Prize in Economics, for conceiving the Hydrogen Economy and striving towards its establishment.

Professor Dr. T. Nejat Veziroglu truly has demonstrated an extraordinary leadership and gifted academic scholarship with his capacity to translate the vision of a hydrogen energy system into today’s reality of the emerging hydrogen energy technologies worldwide.

Dr. John W. Sheffield, President of IAHE



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