

### In Memoriam André J.A. Vandenput (1949-2008)



With great sadness we were informed that André Vandenput, professor at TU Eindhoven, passed away this last January 11. André was member of the EPE International Steering Committee and was member of the EPE Executive Council from 1995 till 1999 and from 2003 till 2007. André was also an active member of the IAS, Industrial Power Conversion Systems Sessions.

André Vandenput received his M.Sc. degree in electrical power engineering from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, in 1973 and his Ph.D. degree in Applied Sciences from the same university in 1977. In 1985, he received a second doctoral degree from the Faculty of Applied Science of KULeuven.

From 1973 till 1991, he worked in the Laboratory for electrical Machines and Drives of the KULeuven, first as research associate of the Belgian National Fund for Scientific Research and since 1987 as Professor. In 1991 he was appointed as full time professor and chairman of the section Electro-mechanics and Power Electronics in the Electrical Engineering Department at the Eindhoven University of Technology.

From 1980 to 1981, André obtained the prestigious Alexander von Humboldt Stipendium to conduct research on the simulation of the transient behavior of induction machines at RWTH Aachen University, Germany. In 1983 and 1984 he worked as a visiting professor at the University of Colorado in Boulder, USA, on the improvement of the efficiency of small single phase induction machines. He was a research fellow of the Japan Society for Promotion of Science at the University of Tokyo in 1986, where he worked at the simulation of power converters.

André's work and main interest were the continued development of induction drives using vector control methods. Later he focused on permanent magnet machines and last but not least the famous "Flying Carpet" (Magnetically Levitated Planar Actuator with Moving Magnets), which was the last and probably the most original research achievement under his guidance. André wrote numerous research papers and holds several patents.

As a teacher he taught several courses on Modern Power Conversion and Electrical Drives. He received many times student awards for the quality and clarity of his courses.

The main management achievement of André Vandenput was the turnaround of his chair in Eindhoven from an average medium size research group to a top research group in electro-mechanics and power electronics in the Netherlands, with a strong international reputation. During the past decade, the productivity and quality of his chair reached an unequalled level as witnessed by the many publications in IEEE transactions. André Vandenput was one of the founders of the successful program "Electromagnetic Power Technology" which was adopted by the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, stimulating many research projects in this area.

André, with his typical charming Flemish character, was patient and had lots of humor. He was a hardworking and honest person with a very high level of integrity. André was my PhD supervisor and mentor. Hence, I know from personal experience, that he always insisted on experimental validation, no matter how much time it took. He would never stop working until he had checked the thesis of his students or assistants to the very last details, teaching us to be concise, precise and focus on quality. He was loved by his students and staff and highly respected by his colleagues.

With sadness we say adieu to André, who left us all too early. We wish his mother, wife and children and grandchild all the strength to bear this heavy loss. Together with the Faculty of Electrical Engineering at TU Eindhoven, we will miss André Vandenput dearly.

Rik De Doncker  
Ex-officio EPE Executive Council member