

Russia's Saratov State Technical University honors iNEER's Tomas Cermak and Win Aung with prestigious *Doctorem Honoris Causa* (Honorary Doctor of Science) Degree

Saratov, Russia
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In a special ceremony held today in Saratov, Russia, the Saratov State Technical University (SSTU) awarded the prestigious *Doctorem Honoris Causa* (Honorary Doctor of Science) degree to Tomas Cermak, Chair of the iNEER Board and Win Aung, Secretary-General of iNEER. The ceremony took place on the fourth day of the International Conference on Information Technologies – 2012 (ICIT-2012) hosted by SSTU from June 6-9, 2012 in Saratov, Russia.

In presenting the awards, Igor Pleve, Rector of SSTU, informs Tomas Cermak and Win Aung that SSTU “is proud to give you this degree as the formal recognition of your activities.” He cites the important roles played by Tomas Cermak and Win Aung “in the international cooperation of our university and in development of engineering education,” as well as the role played by iNEER in providing “links to university people from different countries.”

Highlighting the professional accomplishments of the two award recipients, Pleve notes that Tomas Cermak was elected as Rector of VSB – Technical University of Ostrava, Czech Republic, in November 2002, having first come to VSB in 1964 as a senior assistant, and rising to become Head of the Department of Electrical Machines and Drives in 1985. In 1990, Cermak became Rector, a position he held until 1997. In 1997, he was appointed as Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs. His service record includes membership in the Scientific Board of VSB and in the State Committee for Scientific Degrees. Cermak chairs the Engineering Division of the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic. An early believer of the value of international cooperation in engineering education and research, he was actively involved with the organization of the ICEE conferences since 1997 and, later, with iNEER and the iCEER conferences. He is a member of the International Steering Committee of iNEER since inception. He has been Chairman of the iNEER Board since 2004 and is Chairman of the Vesuvius (Hinckley) Slavia Group. He is also Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Supervisory Boards of Ozobel and Vitkovice Steel Company, respectively. He teaches courses in Control of Electrical Drives and Machines, Power Energy Systems, and other courses. He has written 9 textbooks, and published 50 papers in journals and conference proceedings, with an additional 35 research papers based on international collaboration.

Win Aung completed baccalaureate studies in Burma (now Myanmar) at the Rangoon Institute of Technology (ME '62) and post-graduate studies at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, MN, USA where he earned the M.S. and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering in 1966 and 1969, respectively. He was a Member of Technical Staff at Bell Laboratories, Whippany, USA. From 1974-2010 he served at the U.S. National Science Foundation. He was appointed to the U.S. Senior Executive Service and awarded the first NSF Federal Engineer of the Year Award, both in 1985. He has held adjunct and

visiting professorships at several universities in the U.S. and abroad. He is a co-founder of the International Network for Engineering Education and Research (iNEER), and has served as its Secretary-General since 2000. He is also the principal editor of the iNEER *Innovations Series*. He has published over 120 technical papers, and has edited or co-edited more than 10 books. He received the honorary doctorate (Dr.h.c.) degree from VSB-Technical University of Ostrava, Czech Republic, in 1999, and from the University of Pécs, Hungary in 2008. In 2005 he was awarded the Medal of Merit by Silesian University of Technology in Poland. A Fellow of ASME since 1983, he received the ASME Classic Paper Award in 1999. He served on the ASME Board on Engineering Education and then on its Council on Education. In 1997, he received the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Invitation Fellowship Award.

Saratov State Technical University (SSTU) celebrated its 80th anniversary in October 2010. It is ranked among the top 12 Russian technical universities. Named after the Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, SSTU is well known for its excellence in research and education; it is also a well-known for its wide-ranging international relations. Its success in collaborative educational and research projects has won the university friends and partners from all over the world. Currently, it has an enrollment of about 28,000 students with more than 2,000 academic staff providing education in 149 fields of studies leading to the B.Sc., M.Sc., and the Ph.D. degrees. Founded as the Automobile & Road Construction Institute in 1930, SSTU was transformed into the Polytechnic Institute in 1960. In 1992, it was elevated to the university status. Today, SSTU comprises a unique educational and research complex that includes 89 chairs, 8 faculties, 12 educational-research centers and 3 institutes. The principal focus areas of the education and research activities at SSTU are in Information Technologies, Software Engineering and Electronics, Mechanical Engineering and Cultural Studies, Industrial and Civil Engineering, Architecture and Design, Power Engineering and Social Science, Chemical Engineering and Machines for Food Industry, Transport Engineering and Instrument-Making, Sewing Technology and Fashion Design. In 2004, SSTU led the opening of Russian engineering education to the outside world by organizing and hosting the International Engineering Education Partnership Workshop for an iNEER delegation and a team of rectors of Russian state technical universities which led to the signing of the [Saratov Communiqué in English](#) and in [Russian](#) (please click).