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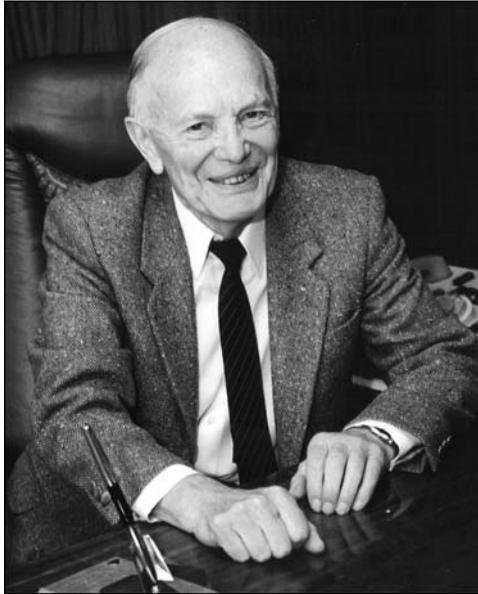
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50 YEARS AT THE HEAD OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF UKRAINE



In February there will be 50 years since Boris E. Paton has been elected the President of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR, now the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. Boris Paton is an outstanding scientist in the field of welding, metallurgy and technology of metals and materials science, prominent public figure and talented organiser of science, Active Member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Russian Academy of Sciences, Professor, honoured scientist and technologist of the Ukr. SSR, Twice the Hero of the Socialist Labour of the USSR, Hero of Ukraine, participant in the Great Patriotic War, and liquidator of accident at the Chernobyl NPP.

Deep understanding of the role of science in society, its goals and tasks, high international authority of a scientist, devotion to science, inexhaustible energy and high moral qualities, social and political activities, and experience of heading a major scientific team were decisive arguments for electing Boris Paton to this post. A new structure and charter of the Academy aimed at a more rational utilisation of the research efforts and means, their concentration on addressing the critical problems of science and impact on development of the economy of Ukraine were worked out under the leadership of B.E. Paton.

Dozens of new institutions and organisations making research in the most important scientific areas wider and deeper were founded within the system of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukr. SSR on the initiative and with the active support of Boris Paton. He persistently seeks clear definition of the research profile of each institute and takes care that each of them becomes a leader in its area in the republic, state and world.

The Academy of Sciences is the main scientific centre, where research is conducted in an extended front on topical problems of natural and technical sciences and humanities. Institutions of the Academy take worthy positions in such areas as mathematics, theoretical physics, solid-state and low-temperature physics, radio physics and radio astronomy, materials science, cybernetics and computer science, neurophysiology, molecular biology, microbiology and virology, genetic engineering and others. The Academy has high-end experimental-production facilities, and it develops new forms of connection between science and industry.

In different years Boris Paton initiated foundation of the academic research centres in a number of regions of the country, e.g. Donetsk, Lvov, Odessa, Kharkov, Dnepropetrovsk and Simferopol, which function as regional interdisciplinary bodies for coordination of research activities.

Close collaboration of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukr. SSR with the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, State Committee for Science and Technology and academies of sciences of the union republics promoted development of many new research areas in the Ukr. SSR, foundation of new institutions and engineering centres, and strengthening of the international authority of our Academy of Sciences.

Boris Paton initiated formation of major integrated scientific and technical programs in the interests of individual industries, transport, communication and agriculture. Scientists of the Academy made considerable contribution to development of the economy of the country. This form of organisation of the research activity was generally recognised.