

In memory of Jelle Witteveen

At the 30th May 2016, Prof. Ir. Jelle Witteveen, one of the former HERON editors in chief, passed away at the age of 82. He worked at TNO from 1958 till 1994, the last 11 years as the Director of the Building Institute. Next to his work at TNO, he was a part time professor in structural mechanics at the Delft University of Technology, Department of Civil engineering.

His personal expertise was in the field of steel structures, in particular nonlinear design concepts and fire safety engineering. But his interest and influence was much broader. As a director of TNO he stimulated the developments in advanced (nonlinear) Finite Element Methods (DIANA), reliability engineering methods, structural durability, quality assurance, etc.. He always encouraged his TNO-colleagues to seek national as well as international cooperation. On the national scale the cooperation with Delft University (in particular via master and PhD-students) was important to him. In relation to international cooperation, his favourite motto was that 99% of the research is done outside the Netherlands. TNO became under his directorship a well-known partner in associations like ECCS, fib, IABSE, RILEM and CIB as well in European research projects and European code development (Eurocodes).



The combination of his scientific abilities, his inspiring leadership and even more the enthusiastic and open way he approached other people might be called unique. He cannot easily be forgotten by all who had the privilege to know him.

His former colleagues,
emeritus professors Ton Vrouwenvelder and Johan Blaauwendraad

