

- 75th anniversary of his birthday
- 25 years Secretary General of IFHTSE

Bob Wood is 75'

IFHTSE is people. It is a worldwide network of specialists in heat treatment and surface engineering. But a network needs a system engineer, needs software to be able to fulfil its task. **IFHTSE has a skilled system manager and that's Robert B. Wood, or as we all know him: Bob Wood.** He is also one of the most remarkable "engineers" of the software driving the Federation.

Bob is a linguist and not a materials engineer but that's only partially true. It is true as *he speaks about eleven languages - and not all European* - but after a long service as a professional secretary for a couple of different professional organizations *he definitely could pass a test in materials science as well.* All these are very important but definitely not enough to gain that respect and recognition Bob has in this large community of high level associations, groups and individuals. What is also needed is the communication skill, **to make people to understand** we need each other and in this fast speeding whirlwind **we may achieve much more together as anyone of us could alone.**



In the forty years of history of IFHTSE the backbone of the Federation was the Secretary. Taking over the secretariat from the founding secretary Urs Wyss in 1988 at the turn of the global political systems, **Bob succeeded to be one of the main pillars of the IFHTSE.** Over the last 25 years he had a key role in transforming the Federation into a truly worldwide network of professionals.

According to the statute of the IFHTSE presidents chair the network for a period of two years. Their role is to shape the actual policy, orientation of the Federation but to implement this policy is the difficult task given, first of all, to the secretary. **He represents the "stability", the continuity of the organization and also the catalyser between the different philosophical or structural approaches of a large international community with different cultures, different traditions towards a common purpose of scientific and technical progress.**



A sustained and successful professional life needs a back-up. Rosie, Bob's wife is this back-up. With her intelligence, determination and charm she is really the back-up which only the family can give. But she really is also an *"honorary secretary"* to IFHTSE. We are not only professionals but also humans and we need the "stress relieving" in the circle of our friends and colleagues. And Rosie gives all the support Bob may need in the social part of the "secretariat".

Much more may be said, but let's finish **with our best wishes to Bob for his seventy fifth birthday. We wish you good health in the many years to come, further satisfaction in your work with us and peace and happiness in your family.**

Happy birthday Bob!