

## WREN OBITUARY

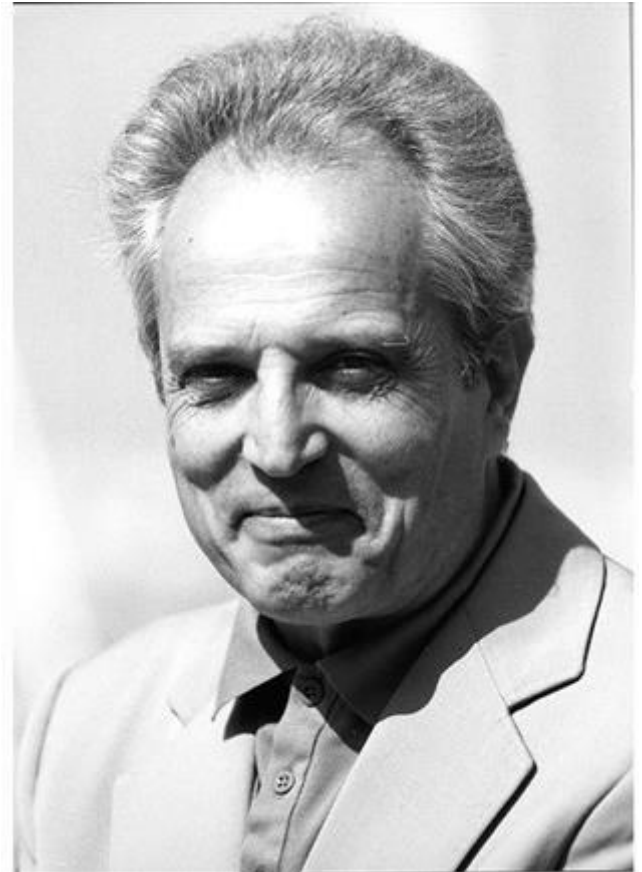
Professor Giuseppe Furlan who died on Tuesday 19 July 2016, Trieste, Italy

**WREN and The World Renewable Energy Congress and all who knew him as “Pino Furlan” at ICTP (International Centre for Theoretical Physics) were saddened to hear of the passing of Giuseppe Furlan.**

Prof Furlan was a physics graduate from the University of Trieste and was involved in the founding of ICTP in 1964 with Prof Abdus-Salam and Prof Paolo Budinich. As well as his position as Professor of Theoretical Physics Prof Furlan also supervised particle physics research in ICTP and coordinated its environmental physics activities. In 1983 he founded and led TRIL (Training and Research in Italian Laboratories) whose objective was to encourage and train physicists from developing countries.

My involvement with Prof Abdus-Salam, then Director of ICTP, dates back to 1976 when we met when I was carrying out summer semester research on composite materials at Imperial College. I had already teamed with Prof Quercia and Prof Mancini in running Renewable Energy Seminars in Italy since 1974. Prof Abdus-Salam suggested that we took these month long summer seminars to ICTP on an annual basis. Prof Furlan became their Local Director from 1983 to 1995. However, in 1997, following the death of Prof Abdus-Salam, the new Director of ICTP was not interested in continuing a programme in Renewable Energy and no seminars were held between 1997 and 2004. In 2004 the Directorship changed again and the Seminars recommenced. Prof Furlan's invaluable contribution was to coordinate these Seminars and to find sponsorship for them. Up to 200 participants attended each Seminar and they succeeded in bringing together many scientists from around the world encouraging and enabling the successful transfer of renewable energy research.

In 2006 Prof Furlan and I organised a meeting at ICTP of 39 leading renewable energy scientists from 30 countries to report on the state of renewable energy in their countries. In the following year, 2007, in Trieste the G8-UNESCO Forum on Education, Research and Innovation: New Partnership for Sustainable Development was organised by Prof Furlan and Prof Sreenivasan (then director of ICTP). WREN was asked to assist with the organisation of



the Sustainable Development and Renewable Energy Session. Prof Furlan made a significant contribution organising this important gathering at Trieste.

Prof Furlan was a committed supporter and promoter of a cleaner environment and renewable energy. He was an early supporter of WREN and its work and he was made a WREN Pioneer in 1992 in recognition of his role at ICTP. He was devoted to assisting scientists from developing countries. He will be missed by many colleagues and associates, and scientists around the world. Our deepest condolences are sent to them and his family.

Born in Trieste in 1935, Furlan, graduated from the University of Trieste in 1958 with a degree in physics. In 1960, he attended the important scientific conference organized by the University of Trieste at the Castelletto in the Miramare Park that sparked the birth of ICTP. The event attracted a number of high-level scientists, including Abdus Salam (who was visiting Trieste for the first time) and Trieste physicist Paolo Budinich, a beloved mentor of Furlan's. During the meeting, Salam and Budinich discussed the creation of a theoretical physics institute open to scientists from around the world. Furlan remembered, "I was impressed from then on by Abdus Salam's lively imagination and by the quickness of his thought."

ICTP – Abdus Salam Centre for Theoretical Physics was established in 1964, and Furlan, who had been at CERN for a few years, returned to Trieste "with a personal contribution of advanced ideas and personal contacts". He began his affiliation with ICTP as supervisor for research in elementary particle physics, and then coordinator of ICTP's activities in environmental physics, while serving from 1968 onwards as an influential theoretical professor at Trieste University.

In 1983, Furlan became the founding head of ICTP's [Training and Research in Italian Laboratories \(TRIL\)](#), a programme created in response to a growing need for scientists from developing countries to participate in high-level experimental research.

In 1976, Prof Abdus Salam contacted Prof Sayigh whom was teaming with Prof Quercia and Prof Manchini in running Renewable Energy Seminars in Italy since 1974, and asked them to have their Seminars in ICTP. From 1977 – 1995 each year Prof Sayigh used to organize one month seminar at Trieste – ICTP. Prof Furlan became the Local Director of these seminars from 1983 – 1995. In 1997, the Director General of ICTP who took into office after Prof Abdus Salam death was not productive nor inclined to continue Renewable Programme at ITCP. In 2004 Prof Prof K R Sreenivasan became the Director General of ICTP. Prof Fulan and I organized in early 2006 top experts meeting whereby 39 top experts from more than 30 countries gave their progress in renewable energy in their countries. This was followed by G8-UNESCO World Forum on: Education, Research and Innovation: New Partnership for Sustainable Development in Trieste with Prof Furlan and Prof Sreenivasan and WREN were the organizers. The forum was opened by Prime Minister of Italy H E Romano Prodi and the Director General of UNESCO Mr Koïchiro Matsuura. Prof Furlan was one of main planner and operator of such a mammoth task.

Prof Furlan will be missed by many of his colleagues and associates and our deepest condolences to his family.

Ali Sayigh – Chairman of WREC

& DG of WREN, August 2016