

## **PROF. ENG. LACHEZAR TSOTSORKOV, PHD**

Prof. dr. eng. Lachezar Tsotsorkov is Executive Director of Assarel-Medet JSC, the largest and fundamental company in the municipality of Panagyurishte and the district of Pazardzhik. He has been awarded with the highest insignia of honor – Stara Planina – First Grade Medal as well as Manager of the Year 2009 Prize. He is an honorary citizen of the town of Panagyurishte and town of Strelcha and sponsor of numerous significant projects and charity causes in the municipality and the country. As a culture patron he has been honored with the Zlaten Vek Prize by the Ministry of Culture.

### **Education**

He completed his secondary education at Nesho Bonchev High School and graduated from the Technical University (former High Institute of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering) in Sofia in Lifting Transportation, Construction and Mining Equipment. He has undergone specializations in marketing and management in Bulgaria, Austria, and Japan.

### **Professional experience**

He started work at the Repairs Mechanical Shop of the Medet Mining and Processing Complex in 1971, as a scholarship student of the company. During the period 1979-1985 he managed the construction of a new site of Oborishte factory – town of Panagyurishte /nowadays Yana factory/.

In 1986 he took the position of General Director of Assarel-Medet Technological Mining and Processing Complex. His personal initiative, professionalism, organizational skills and dedication in work were crucial for the successful building and commissioning of the new capacities of the Assarel Mine and Concentrator on December 6, 1989. In 1991, he took the position of Executive Director of Assarel-Medet JSC.

In 1998, together with 2756 colleagues from the company, he founded the investment company Assarel-Invest JSC in which later the majority share was acquired by the Austrian company Voest Alpine Intertrading (VAIT) through its affiliate VA Copper Invest. The company Assarel Invest JSC in competition with a known foreign company in the branch, won the tender for privatization of 75% of the capital of Assarel Medet JSC in June 1999. Thereafter the company fulfilled ahead of schedule and all its

obligations as per the privatization agreement without using any privileges stipulated by law for the so called workers-managers companies.

In 1999, Prof. dr. eng. Lachezar Tsotsorkov became Executive Director and a member of the Board of Directors of Assarel-Medet JSC.

Under his management the company has been successfully restructured and modernized applying the best European and world practices in technologies, environment protection and corporate social responsibility. Today, the company is among the leading industrial enterprises in the country and a leader in the Bulgarian ore mining with sustainable, environmentally friendly and occupationally safe operations.

### **Social Activity**

In 1991, Lachezar Tsotsorkov was among the founders of the Bulgarian Chamber of Mining and Geology and so far he has constantly been re-elected for its chairman. He has actively participated and contributed to sustainable development of the mining industry and putting foundations of the modern model of social dialogue with the mining unions, and also contributed to preservation of the social peace during difficult years for the country. Since 1992, he has been involved in the activities of the Managing Council of the Bulgarian Industrial Association and the Board of Directors of the Atlantic Club. Actively involved in supporting and developing of community center work, sport and tourism in the municipality Panagyurishte. He is among the constitutors and the first chairman of the Srednogorie Med Industrial Cluster, town of Pirdop, and the Alliance of Entrepreneurs, town of Panagyurishte. Since 2000, he has been a member of Rotary Club - Panagyurishte. As an Executive Director of Assarel-Medet JSC and chairman of the Bulgarian Chamber of Mining and Geology, he is actively involved in the activities of Euromine, European Business Congress, UN Global Compact in Bulgaria, and a number of other business associations and non-governmental organizations. In 2009, he published his autobiographical book entitled 60 Moments of My Life. He was initiator for the establishment of Club Manager in 2010 and he was elected as its first chairman.

### **Scientific Activity**

Prof. dr. eng. Lachezar Tsotsorkov is a member of the International Organizing Committee of the World Mining Congress, Warsaw. He has been participating in the Management Councils of the Scientific and Technical Union in Mining, Geology and Metallurgy and the Bulgarian National Mining Committee since 1994. He also published a book on company management and defended a doctoral thesis on topic Foundations of Corporate Culture in Mining and Processing Complexes to the Higher Attestation Committee in 2000.

He is an actual member of the International Academy of Mineral Resources, Moscow and the International Academy of Environment and Labor Safety, St. Petersburg, foreign member of the Russian Mining Academy, Moscow and the Carl Duisberg International Foundation, Köln, Germany.

He has a lot of publications in Bulgarian and foreign scientific and technical issues, as well as registered patents and rationalizations.

Married with two children.