

KUVANDYK POLADOV (1956-2019)

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY of the National Commission for UNESCO in Turkmenistan Kuvandyk Poladovich Poladov passed away suddenly at the age of 63. For more than twenty years, he coordinated UNESCO projects within the country and made a significant contribution to the development of international cultural cooperation in Central Asia. He also contributed to the integration of his country into the modern scientific community and to the growth of the country's reputation and prestige in the commonwealth of nations.

Kuvandyk Poladov was born in the village of Kabakly located on the left bank of the Amu Darya River in the Lebap Velayat (Region) of Turkmenistan. After graduating from a rural school, he went to Ashgabat and entered the Turkmen Polytechnic Institute where he graduated in 1978 with a degree in chemical engineering and technology. By assignment, he began working as a senior forensic expert at the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Turkmen SSR and since 1979 continued his career path at the Institute of Chemistry at Turkmenistan's Academy of Sciences successively as an intern auditor, a junior research fellow, and a senior researcher. In 1988 he successfully defended a dissertation for the degree of Candidate of Chemical Sciences in the Leningrad Institute of Technology (now called the Saint Petersburg State Institute of Technology). In 1992 he was offered the position of a chief technologist at an oil refinery in the town of Seydi in his native Lebap Region and in 1993 he was appointed as an Assistant to the President of the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan. Since 1997 until the last day of his life, Poladov served as the Executive Secretary of the National Commission for UNESCO in Turkmenistan.

Over those years, largely thanks to his efforts, diplomatic talent, and personality, he achieved significant success in the implementation of a number of cultural initiatives. In particular, in close cooperation with the National Office of Turkmenistan for Protection, Study and Restoration of Historical and Cultural Monuments, the World Monuments Fund (WMF), the University College London (UCL), the International Centre on Earthen Architecture in Grenoble (CRAtterre); three archaeological sites of Turkmenistan were included on the UNESCO World Heritage



List. These were Ancient Merv (1999), the Parthian Fortresses of Nisa (2005), and Kunya-Urgench (2007). With Poladov's active assistance, the heroic Turkmen epic art of Gorogly was placed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2015. In addition, the following year the multinational holiday of Novruz was also placed on the list as part of a joint initiative of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, India, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. In 2017, "Kushtdepdi: The art of Singing and Dancing" was also added as well as the traditions of Turkmen carpet weaving in 2019.

In recent years, Poladov was preparing documentation for nominating the Koytendag mountain ecosystem with its famous karst caves and the Badhyz and Sünt-Hasardag nature reserves on the UNESCO List. He was also a member of the Coordination Committee for the serial nomination of the Great Silk Road on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Despite devoting his efforts, energy, and time to official duties and social work, Kuvandyk Poladov remained in collaboration with the Academic Institute of Chemistry and investigated the physico-chemical properties of oil. In the abovementioned area, he published approximately 50 articles in scientific journals and collections as well as registering patents. He participated in a number of international conferences, scientific symposia, and meetings on education and science. The subject of his constant attention included training, professional internships, and the further promotion of young experts from Turkmenistan in which he saw a promising future for specialists in his

field and for science in general. Kuvandyk Poladov will remain in the memory of everyone who knew him as one who understood the importance of cooperation for many years and as an exceptionally benevolent, intelligent, and sociable person whose openness, personal charm, and constant sense of humor earned him universal respect and a high reputation.

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MIKHAIL NIKOLAYEVICH FEDOROV (1937-2020)

ON January 3, 2020, an outstanding numismatist and archeologist, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor Mikhail Nikolayevich Fedorov passed away in Germany. He was born in Tashkent on June 28, 1937. From 1954 to 1959 he studied at the Central Asian State University for a degree in archaeology. He counted Mikhail Evgeniyevich Masson and Galina Anatoliyevna Pugachenkova as his teachers under whose guidance he underwent archaeological training in Old Merv (Turkmenistan). He often liked to tell his students about that experience. Immediately after graduation, he began working at the Institute of History and Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR in Tashkent, where in 1961, he defended his Candidate of Sciences thesis. Ten years later, Fedorov, like many of his Tashkent colleagues, became an employee of the newly established Institute of Archaeology at the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR located in Samarkand. He did not work there for long, however, and in 1971 he moved to Frunze (present-day Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan), where he taught at the Kyrgyz State University until 1996 progressing from a Senior Lecturer and an Associate Professor to a Professor and eventually Head of the Department of Archaeology and Ethnography (1991–1994). While working at the history department, Fedorov delivered lectures on numismatics, archaeology, and the medieval history of Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia, which many of his students still fondly recall. During that time, he published the first textbook on numismatics in Central Asia (Frunze, 1978). In 1990, in Novosi-



birsk, he defended his doctoral dissertation on the coinage of the Karakhanid era.

Working at the Kyrgyz State University, M.N. Fedorov was engaged not only in training professional historians and archaeologists, but also in archaeological field research. Under his leadership from 1980 to 1988, excavations were carried out at the settlement of Koshoy Korgon in the inner Tian Shan Mountains. He identified the medieval town of At-Bash, known from Arab and Persian sources. As a result, the topography and fortification of the town were clarified; a palace-type building, as well as residential and handicraft buildings were also excavated. Simultaneously as these excavations, archaeological surveys were conducted to identify new sites and to take into account