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Featured in this Issue:

- Nanodielectrics – How Much Do We Really Understand?
- Insulation Failure Mechanisms of Power Generators
- Asset-Management of Transformers Based on Condition Monitoring and Standard Diagnosis
- Interaction between Insulating Paper and Transformer Oil: Bacterial Content and Transport of Sulfur and Nitrogen Compounds

Professor Masoud Farzaneh, Charles Biddle Prize Awardee

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Professor Masoud Farzaneh Is Awarded the Charles-Biddle Prize

On 5 May 2008, the prestigious Charles Biddle prize was awarded to Professor Masoud Farzaneh by the Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities, Ms. Yolande James, during a special ceremony in the Quebec National Assembly. This award highlights the outstanding contribution of a person from cultural communities to the development of Quebec society.

A native of Iran, Professor Farzaneh is currently Chair of the Industrial Research Chair on Atmospheric Icing of Power Network Equipment (CIGELE) and the Canada Research Chair on Engineering of Power Network Atmospheric Icing, at University of Quebec in Chicoutimi (UQAC). Shortly after his arrival in Canada in 1982, as visiting researcher, he realized the strategic importance of research on atmospheric icing to ensure the reliability of transmission and distribution of electricity for Quebec and other cold climate regions.

With several industrial partners concerned by this issue, including Hydro-Quebec, he established the CIGELE Industrial Chair in 1997. That chair quickly became a research centre of international scope in the field of atmospheric icing, attracting many students and high-level researchers and allowing the establishment of a network of collaboration involving several universities and research centers throughout the world. A few years later, he was responsible for the creation of the Icing Research Pavilion at UQAC, housing research laboratories, recognized as the largest and most advanced of their kind in the world, and ensuring the position of UQAC and Quebec as world leader in this field of research.

Thanks to his leadership and the quality of his research, CIGELE's mandate was renewed until 2012. Professor Farzaneh was also granted, in 2003, the INGIVRE Canada Research Chair. The same year, he became founding director of the International Center on Icing and Power Network Engineering (CENGIVRE), considerably increasing the visibility of Canada and Quebec internationally. The center was recognized as the most important in the world by the NSERC Leo-Deryks Award.

In 2007, he was appointed by the International Council of Large Electric Systems (CIGRE) to head working group WG B2.29, composed of international experts, on anti- and de-icing systems for HV and UHV overhead lines, to ensure more effective protection of power networks in extreme conditions of icing. In addition to his activities with CIGRE, he holds several other positions at the international level. In particular, he is chair of IEEE DEIS Outdoor Insulator Committee, Associate Editor of IEEE Transactions on Dielectrics and Electrical Insulation, and member of the editorial boards of the high voltage engineering journal in China and the Journal of Iranian Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Moreover, he was selected among the 100 Leaders and Dreamers— Canada's Greatest Innovators by the Maclean's magazine. During his career, he has trained over 180 highly qualified personnel, many of them now holding key positions in research and in the electricity industry. Also, he has to his credit over 600 scientific publications, assuring dissemination of the knowledge developed under his leadership.

The quality of scientific contributions by Professor Farzaneh has been acknowledged by the attribution of several prestigious awards as well as the distinctions of Fellow of IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers), Fellow of IEE (Institution of Electrical Engineers), and Fellow of ICI (Canadian Institute engineers). Closer to home, he is the recipient of the Discovery Prize of the Quebec Science scientific magazine, the Circle of Excellence Award from the University of Quebec, and Louis-Elie Beauchamp prize for regional scientific merit.

All our congratulations!

Prof. Farzaneh receiving the Charles Biddle Prize from Ms. Yolande James, Quebec Minister of Immigration.