

*Es gilt das gesprochene Wort!*

**Honorary Doctorate to  
Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Zhores Ivanovich Alferov am 12.02.2010**

Excellency,  
Prof. Alferov,  
Prof. Thomsen,  
Prof. Bimberg,  
Dear colleagues,  
Distinguished guests,

Welcome at the Technische Universität Berlin!

We are exceptionally proud to have the honor of awarding Prof. Alferov the honorary doctorate, today.

Prof. Alferov is vice-president of the Russian Academy of Science. He is a famous researcher with international reputation, who is significantly contributing to modern heterostructure physics and electronics. For his merits in these fields, Prof. Alferov was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2000.

In his laudation, my colleague, Professor Bimberg, will illuminate the extraordinary scientific achievements of Professor Alferov. I will set my focus on cooperation aspects between him and the TU Berlin.

The TU Berlin has a long tradition of cooperating with researchers and scientific institutions in Russia, especially in St. Petersburg and Moscow, with whom we maintain vivid and fruitful cooperation activities.

The story of interaction between Professor Alferov and the Technische Universität Berlin started around 1988, when he suggested to Professor Bimberg to consider Dr. Garbutsov, one of his closest collaborators and a pioneer of high-power semiconductor lasers, for the nomination as *Humboldt awardee*. The *Humboldt Foundation's* selection committee agreed that the nomination was excellent, and, in 1989, Prof. Garbutsov came to TU Berlin.

The relationship became closer when both scientists met in 1992 at the *University of California*, where Professor Bimberg was holding a guest professorship and was hosting a visitor: Professor Alferov.

The result of the first personal contact was their decision to submit a proposal to the *Volkswagen Foundation* for funding joint research. That application, which was successful, was the first of a long series of joint research proposals in the last 18 years. They applied successfully to the *German Research Foundation (DFG)*, to the *European Union* and to our *Federal Ministry of Research and Education (BMBF)*.

In the meantime, the continuing cooperative activities have led to a cooperation agreement between the *Ioffe Institute* and TU Berlin in 1998 that was renewed in 2007.

Prof. Alferov's research group and its counterpart at TU Berlin, Prof. Bimberg, were very successful in conducting joint research and publishing their results - together 210 papers, which were referred to by the scientific community close to 8.000 times.

Thus, this is a long-term collaboration, obviously. In fact, it is continuously on the same high level for almost two decades – with half a dozen of post-docs from the *Ioffe Institute* having received Alexander-von-Humboldt fellowships, DFG Mercator professorship, Marie-Curie stipends ..., to work for some time in Berlin.

The joint research of the two groups has also resulted in commercial applications. Let me highlight the good example of *Professor Nicolai Ledentsov*. In 2006, while leaving a guest professorship at the TU Berlin, he founded the company *Vertical Integrated Systems*. Most recently, the Russian State enterprise 'RusNanoTech' screened the company, discovered the importance of its products for the world market and decided to invest in this enterprise. Again, Prof. Alferov lent his support and reputation for a fast kick-off of this company.

Today, nanotechnology belongs to the important fields of TU Berlin's research landscape. Thanks to Professor Alferov's substantial contribution.

With the bestowal of the *Honorary Doctorate* by TU Berlin, we would like to express our deep appreciation for developing our fruitful bilateral cooperation for two decades in such a successful way. Additionally, we therewith express our wish for its continuation with your participation. While we honor Prof. Alferov, the TU Berlin is honored!

Excellency...