

## **Professor Robert Rivier deceased**

It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of Professor Robert Rivier, who passed away Thursday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2007.

Robert Rivier started his professorship with the extremely demanding challenge of succeeding the late professor Genton. This he did with brilliance and elegance, adopting his own style of management, both efficient and respectful. His success at this was enabled by a tremendous strength of character hidden - sometimes - behind an unassuming demeanour, which matched so well his profound kindness and humanity.

His world renowned scientific competence made him one of the only experts capable of tackling the extraordinary complexity of highly developed railway networks. This was evidenced by the fact that his advice and expertise in this domain were continually sought. The recent audit of the French national railway network can be regarded as the crown on his exceptionally fruitful career. The result of this effort is that the “rapport Rivier” is now a well known reference on the matter in, as well as outside, France.

Multiple generations of EPFL engineers working in the domain of transport across the globe and educated in Lausanne have been, and continue to be, given the opportunity to prosper in their engineering or research activities, with the help of the solid theoretical basis and durable methodologies provided and taught by professor Rivier.

Robert Rivier was close to enjoying his long hoped for and well deserved retirement; fate unfortunately decided otherwise. The LITEP team wants to share their deep sorrow with all those who had the honour and chance to have known Professor Robert Rivier.

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