

The Lublin Branch of the Polish Academy of Sciences

The seat of the Academy's Lublin Branch is situated in the center of Lublin in the Czartoryski Palace, which is also the seat of the Scientific Society of Lublin. Both institutions work to integrate the scientific community in the Lublin region



Radosław Dzięcki

Science in Eastern Poland

JAN GLIŃSKI

The Lublin Branch
of the Polish Academy of Sciences
pan-ol@hektor.umcs.lublin.pl

The Lublin Branch of the Polish Academy of Sciences is one of the Academy's seven regional branches. All of them are situated in large academic centers; in addition to Lublin, these include Kraków, Łódź, Katowice, Poznań, Gdańsk and Wrocław

The role of these branches is to pursue the Academy's objectives by helping to integrate the academic life of their respective regions. The branches support and conduct scientific research of considerable importance for the national economy and culture, and they participate in

the publication of research findings. They act as a link between the Academy and the regional state authorities and administration, the local government, social organizations and the scientific milieu in the region, they also represent this milieu before the central authorities of the Academy. The branches comprise elected members of PAN who are associated with the region, and each branch performs its tasks by organizing scientific commissions comprising distinguished scholars.

Meeting local needs

The Lublin Branch of the Polish Academy of Sciences was established on 15 July 1997. Its first president was Professor Zbigniew Lorkiewicz; since his death this function has been performed by Professor Jan Gliński. At present, the Lublin Branch comprises 12 Academy members and 400 scientists working in 16 commissions, which have been established in accordance with the needs of the local scientific community. These are:

- Commission I - Low-Temperature Plasma Chemistry
- Commission II - Bases and Applications of Physics and Chemistry in Technology and Agriculture
- Commission III - Biotechnology
- Commission IV - Philosophical-Natural Sciences
- Commission V - Motorization and Power Industry in Agriculture
- Commission VI - Polish-Ukrainian Cultural Ties
- Commission VII - Agricultural Medicine
- Commission VIII - Agriculture
- Commission IX - Protection and Formation of the Natural Environment
- Commission X - Economics and Management
- Commission XI - Historical Sciences
- Commission XII - Mechanical, Electrical, Civil Engineering
- Commission XIII - Medical Sciences
- Commission XIV - Legal Sciences
- Commission XV - Nonlinear Sciences
- Commission XVI - Political Science and International Affairs.

The administration and financial activity of the Lublin Branch is conducted by the only Polish Academy of Sciences unit situated in eastern Poland - the Institute of Agrophysics. Its director is Professor Ryszard Walczak, who is also vice-president of the Lublin Branch.

The main scientific centers of the Lublin region are Lublin and Puławy. These cities are home to two universities, the Catholic University of Lublin and Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, as well as the majority of the region's 28 higher education institutions and scientific institutes. The scientific potential of these institutions rests solidly in the 6 thousand scientists they employ, and in the approximately 90 thousand students they educate.

At present, Lublin has a population of about 400,000 inhabitants. It is a historic city dating back to the 9th century and has numerous monuments: an old town, a castle, historic churches and the infamous German concentration camp of Majdanek from World War II.

The city of Puławy, in turn, is known for one of the oldest agricultural institutes in Poland - the Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation, which has been in existence for approximately 150 years.

The Lublin region bears an agricultural character, with considerable natural and recreational assets. There are two National Parks (Poleski and Roztoczański) as well as 16 Landscape Parks and 16 Protected Landscape Areas, together constituting an area of uplands and wetlands which is quite unique in Europe.

Cross-border links

Because of its location, the Lublin Branch considers cooperation with Poland's eastern neighbors (mainly the Ukraine and Belarus, but also Russia and Lithuania) to be

especially important, organizing common conferences and meetings which deal, for instance, with Polish and Ukrainian cultural and religious ties, or the problems of Polish-Ukrainian-Belarusian wetland area of Polesie.

A conference held on November 28, 2003, which was co-organized with the Lublin Voivode (chief of the regional executive administration), constituted a good example of the Lublin Branch's integrative activity in relation to the scientific institutions of the region and their work, aimed at the development of the Lublin region.

The Lublin Branch has established a Foundation of the Polish Academy of Sciences entitled "Science and the Development of the Lublin Region." Its main goal is to facilitate the scientific, social and economic activities associated with the development of the economy and science of the region, and to promote the development of junior scientific staff by organizing competitions and granting awards for the best doctoral and master's theses prepared at the higher education institutions of Lublin.

The periodical publications of the Lublin Branch include: the *Information Bulletin*, *Teka - Archives of the Committee of the Lublin Branch of PAN*, and a bilingual Polish-English quarterly *Maintenance and Reliability*. Additionally, a bilingual website (www.pan-ol.lublin.pl) is being continuously updated and expanded, presenting current events and offering access to the Branch's publications online. ■



Lublin's scientific circles make great efforts to benefit the region, as well as science as a whole. Here an agreement is being signed by (from left to right): Vice-President Marian Wielosz and President Edmund Prost from the Scientific Society of Lublin, and the President Jan Gliński and Vice-President Ryszard Walczak from the Polish Academy of Sciences' Lublin Branch