

CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS OF RIGA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

IN STUDY YEAR 2017/2018

2017

September 1

Prime Minister of Latvia *Māris Kučinskis* attended the traditional meeting of RTU Rector with teaching staff and employees of RTU and presented to the Rector a Letter of Appreciation «For lifelong contribution to the development of Latvian science and persistent efforts to develop studies of exact sciences, innovation and technology transfer, thus enhancing the quality of education development of the national economy».

Students of the Engineering High School (EHS) of Riga Technical University welcomed Prime Minister of Latvia *Māris Kučinskis* in the School.

The first 20 students from the People's Republic of China (PRC) started to study the Latvian language within the framework of a project funded by the PRC government in RTU.

RTU Rector, Academician *Leonīds Ribickis* began a new year of studies, presenting his new book «*50 gadi zinātnes attīstībā*» («50 Years in the Development of Science»).

Professor *Elīna Gaile-Sarkane*, the third Dean in the history of RTU, and the second elected female to this position in RTU, started working as a Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Economics and Management (FEEM).

October 6

The Diploma of RTU Honorary Member was awarded to *Valdis Dombrovskis*, the Vice-President for Euro and Social Dialogue of the European Commission, graduate of the Faculty of Engineering Economics (1995) of RTU (since 2008 – FEEM).

Deputy of Foreign Minister of the Republic of Colombia *Patti Londoño-Jaramillo* visited RTU.

October 10

The first RTU History Day and the 58th International Scientific Conference of the Section of History of Engineering Sciences and Institutions of Higher Educations was held. A new Exposition Hall of RTU RCEH was opened at 1 *Kronvalda* Boulevard, as well as the 5th book of the history

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study «*Augstākās tehniskās izglītības vēsture*» («History of Higher Technical Education») and the first volume of scientific articles of RTU RCEH were presented.

October 11

RTU Administration, staff and students put flowers in the final resting places of the deceased rectors of university in *Rīga* Great Cemetery, *Meža* Cemetery and *Matīsa* Cemetery.

October 14

At the Plenary session of the 58th International Scientific Conference the following titles were awarded: «RTU Scientist of the Year 2017» was awarded to the Associate Professor of Faculty of Power and Electrical Engineering (FPEE) *Dagnija Blumberga*; «RTU Young Female Scientist of the Year 2017» – to the Associate Professor of Faculty of Civil Engineering (FCE) *Linda Mežule*; «RTU Young Scientist (Man) of the Year 2017» – to the Associate Professor of FCE *Jānis Šliseris*; for the first time the Annual Prize for valorisation and commercialization of technologies and products created by RTU was presented – it went to Professor of Faculty of Materials Science and Applied Chemistry (FMSAC) *Māris Turks*; the title of «RTU Honourable Graduate 2016» went to Chairman of the Board of «*Naglis & ERR*» Ltd. and to Head of Mechanical Engineering Competence Centre *Dzintars Naglis*.

The Ball of RTU 155th Anniversary was held at the Riga Latvian Society House.

October 19

Vice-President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam *Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh* visited RTU.

November 2

British Embassy's Defence Attache to Republic of Latvia *Mark Sapsford* visited RTU.

November 14

Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Latvia *Hanan Khalfan Al Aleeli* visited RTU.

November 15

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Chile to Republic of Latvia *Jose Goni* visited RTU.

November 17

Professor of FMSAC of RTU *Andris Ozols* received the The Certificate of Recognition of the Cabinet of Ministers.

November 18

Head of the RTU Culture Centre *Asja Visocka* received the Cross of Recognition, IV Class.

November 23

Ambassador of the Brazilian Federal Republic to Latvia *Marcus Pinta Gama* visited RTU.

RTU Professor of FCE, Vice-Rector for Research *Tālis Juhna* and Professor of FMSAC *Aigars Jirgenšons* were elected as Academicians of the Latvian Academy of Sciences (LAS). Professor of Institute of Aeronautics of Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Transport and Aeronautics (FMETA) *Aleksandrs Urbahs*, Associate Professor of FMSAC *Kristaps Jaudzems* and Professor of Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology (FCSIT) *Egils Ginters* were elected as Corresponding Members of LAS.

November 28

New RTU magazine «*Innovation*» was founded.

In November

RTU became a full Member of the Association of European Network for Academic Integrity.

December 1

Practical Associate Professor of the Institute of Design Technologies of FMSAC *Juris Emsiņš* received the highest award of the forest and timber industry «*Zelta čiekurs*» («Golden Pine Cone»), the Certificate of Recognition of the Cabinet of Ministers, the Honorary diploma and the chest badge «*Zelta sēkliņa*» («Golden Seed»).

December 14

Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine *Liliia Hrynevych* and Deputy Minister *Pavlo Khobzey* visited RTU.

Dean of the FPPE Professor *Oskars Krievs* and Associate Professor of the Department of Power Systems Management and Automation *Aleksandrs Dolgicers*, received the Annual Prize of «*Latvenergo*» and LAS for their significant contribution in energetics.

Awards of «*Latvenergo*» and LAS for achievements in energetics were awarded to young scientists who had recently obtained a Doctor degree

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in engineering sciences from RTU: *Edīte Bieļa-Dailidoviča*, *Inga Iljina*, *Oļegs Sļiskis*, as well as Doctor of Engineering Sciences *Toms Komass*, who had obtained a Master's Degree from RTU.

December 18

Professor *Elīna Gaile-Sarkane* was elected as Chair of the Senate of RTU for the second term, Associate Professor *Jānis Kaminskis* was elected as Deputy Chair.

In December

Vladislavs Aščeuļovs, the 12th grade pupil of EHS of RTU and his teacher *Laura Fjodorova* received the awards of the Cabinet of Ministers for achievements in International School Olympiads.

Assistant Professor of the Department of Chemical Technology of Biologically Active Compounds of FMSAC *Vitālijs Rjabovs* received the Award of the Cabinet of Ministers for preparing of the 1st year student of the University of Cambridge *Margarita Fomenko* for International Chemistry Olympiad.

In the GreenMetric World University Ranking, RTU was ranked among 150 higher education institutions as the greenest university in the Baltic States.

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January 11

For the first time New Employees' Day took place.

January 13

First Lady of Japanese Prime Minister *Akie Abe* visited the RTU and EHS of RTU.

In January

RTU students who graduated from the University in winter 2017/2018, for the first time in the history of Latvia received diploma annexes in electronic form.

February 7

The student of the FPPEE *Patriks Gailums* was recognized as the best young athlete of the year (U-20) in Latvia.

February 11

The 2nd year student of the FMETA *Artūrs Dārziņš*, took the 24th place in luge racing at the XXIII Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang, South Korea (KOR).

February 16

LAS named the most significant achievements of Latvian science in 2017. LAS expressed the acknowledgements to the following scientific studies of RTU researchers: in Theoretical Sciences – the research of the FCSIT carried out by Professor *Jānis Ošs* and leading researcher *Uldis Doniņš*; in Applied Science – the research of FPEE carried out by Professor *Antans Sauļus Sauhats*, Researchers *Zane Broka* and *Kārlis Baltputņš*, Lead Researcher *Romāns Petričenko*, Associate Professors *Gatis Junghāns* and *Oļegs Linkevičs*, Assistant Professor *Laila Zemīte*, Professor *Namejs Zeltiņš*, Lead Researcher *Renāta Varfolomejeva*, Assistant Professor *Ļubova Petričenko* and Lead Researcher *Jevgeņijs Kozadajevs*.

Lead Researchers *Jānis Zicāns*, *Nikolajs Kurma*, *Uldis Reknors*, Professors *Remo Merijs-Meri*, *Juris Umbraško*, *Ritvars Bērziņš* and Researcher *Juris Bitenieks* of the Institute of Polymer Materials of FMSAC received the Certificate of Recognition from the President of LAS.

February 20

The Exposition Hall of the RTU RCEH held an exhibition «Three countries. Three centenaries. Three architects», dedicated to the centenary of the Baltic States – Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

March 9

The first festive event of presenting students of the 12th grade of EHS of RTU with the school badges took place.

March 13

RTU RCEH launched perennial Professor of FPEE *Jēkabs Barkāns'* book «*Noklusētās sāpes*» («Hidden Pain»).

March 27

Vice Mayor *Zhang Gong* of Beijing (PRC) and President of the Beijing International Studies University (BISU) *Ji Jinbiao* visited RTU.

April 11

The artistic director of the RTU mixed choir «*Vivere*» *Gints Ceplenieks* was awarded the Annual Award «*Baltais zvirbulis*» («The White Sparrow») of the Education, Culture and Sports Department of Riga City Council.

April 12

President of Latvia *Raimonds Vējonis* visited RTU Campus on *Ķīpsala* Island.

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The scientific monograph «From Airplanes to Rockets – Friedrich Zander and Early Aviation in Riga» by Guenter Sollinger and *Alida Zigmunde* was launched at RTU RCEH.

April 19

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Latvia *Judīte Dobeļe* visited RTU.

A historic exposition featuring telecommunication equipment and radio-receivers manufactured between 1925 and 1990 was opened in the Faculty of Electronics and Telecommunications (FET).

April 23

With the decision of the Senate of RTU (Minutes No. 619), the Student Services Department, which includes the Admission Commission and the Division of Career Development and Services, was established.

April 27

RTU Alumni Association presented a new digital platform «RTUconnect» at the Alumni Party.

May 14

«The CERN – Science Accelerator» exhibition organized by RTU was opened at the Latvian National Library, with the aim of raising the awareness of the Latvian public about the importance of Latvia's accession to the European Centre for Nuclear Research (CERN), as well as educating the public about innovative technologies and promoting interest in the field of exact sciences.

May 21

The Senate of RTU (Minutes No. 620), on the bases of the decisions of the Faculty Council, confirmed the following positions: Dean of the FCSIT – Professor *Agris Ņikitenko* (from 02.07.2018); Dean of the FMSAC – Professor *Māris Turks* (from 02.07.2018).

May 22

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to the Republic of Latvia *Jeong-Kyu Lee* visited RTU.

May 29

Universities of the Baltic States signed a Memorandum of Understanding in the European CERN in Geneva. The CERN Baltic Group was officially established, which included all the major regional universities – Riga Technical University, University of Latvia, Riga *Stradiņš* University, Kaunas University of Technology, Vilnius University, Estonian National

Institute of Biochemistry, Tallinn University of Technology and Tartu University.

RTU Professor and Research Assistant of CERN *Toms Torims* was elected Head of the CERN Baltic Group.

In May

RTU student teams «*Riga Airmobile*» and «*Riga Fresh*» won two silver and one bronze medal at the International Pneumobil Races in the Egra city in Hungary.

June 2

The *Vidzeme* Invention and Innovation Festival «*Minox*» took place in *Cēsis* Affiliate of RTU.

June 8

Delegation of the Saxony-Anhalt (Federal Republic of Germany) Landtag Committee on Science, Economics and Digitization visited RTU.

June 15

Researcher of FCE *Aleksandrs Zajacs* receives prize of LAS and «*Latvijas Gāze*» for research on heat supply systems.

June 18–20

The 4th World Congress of Latvian Scientists took place in Latvia, with the participation of RTU scientists.

June 20

The «*Siemens*» Laboratory of Controllers was opened in the FET.

June 21

In «*Arēna Rīga*» («*Arena Riga*»), the second RTU Grand Graduation Party takes place, where for the first time, together with bachelors and masters, the young doctoral students who had defended their doctoral theses in 2017 were also welcomed. RTU diplomas were received by 1392 bachelors and masters, as well as 35 young doctors.

June 22–24

The 18th Baltic Student Song and Dance Festival «*Gaudeamus*» takes place Tartu, Estonia. The following are represented from the RTU: the choirs «*Delta*», «*Gaudeamus*» and «*Vivere*», the groups of young and middle-aged people in Folk Dance Ensemble «*Vektors*».

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June 30

The first Graduation Party of EHS of RTU was held in RTU Great Hall, at 1 *Kaļķu* Street. President of Latvia *Raimonds Vējonis*, the Minister of Education and Science *Kārlis Šadurskis*, as well as the supporters of the secondary school, participated in it.

June 30–July 8

XXVI Nationwide Latvian Song Festival and XVI Dance Festival took place. The following RTU collectives participated: female choir «*Delta*», mixed choir «*Vivere*», male choir «*Gaudeamus*», vocal ensemble «*Jauna nianse*», Folk Dance Ensemble «*Vektors*», brass band «*SPO*», student theatre «*Kamertonis*», post-folk music group «*Daba san*».

RTU Rector Academician *Leonīds Ribickis* participated in the festive opening procession.

In June

RTU for the first time was included in platinum category of «*Ilgtspējas indekss*» («Sustainability Index») of Latvian enterprises.

July 1

The Dean's Office of the FMETA started operating in the Laboratory Building, Room 303, at 1 *Paula Valdena* Street 1, *Ķīpsala*.

July 3

Latvian Honorary Consuls from 55 countries visited RTU.

In July

For the seventh year in a row, RTU was named the most recommended higher education institution in the survey of employers, which had been compiled by the Employers' Confederation of Latvia in cooperation with the career and education portal *prakse.lv*.

August 29

The President of Latvia *Raimonds Vējonis* to the representatives of the EHS of RTU presented *Atis Kronvalds* Foundation Award «*Lielā Pūce*» («Great Owl») in the Best Small School Rating. The president also presents acknowledgement to the representatives of the High School for the third place in the Foundation's created Star Rating, which includes schools whose students have had the best performances at international educational Olympiads.

August 31

The traditional meeting of RTU Rector with teaching staff and employees of RTU at the beginning of new study year.