In Memoriam – Paul Drews, Dr. Ing. – Professor, Colleague, Friend

We deeply mourn the passing of our esteemed colleague and dear friend of IEEE-IES Family, Prof. Paul Drews. Prof. Drews was universally respected for his intellect, his wit and his compassion. Prof. Drews served many years as AdCom member, Vice President for Planning and Development, General Chair of IECON 1998, a flagship conference of IEEE Industrial Electronics Society. He received the 2009 ABB Lifetime Contribution to Factory Automation Award. Prof. Drews had a seemingly limitless capacity for understanding people — as mentors, as colleagues, and as friends. He made people, especially those seeking his advice or counsel, feel at ease and secure no matter the issue they were bringing to him to get the help they needed.

Prof. Drews studied engineering at the Technical University Aachen in Germany and received his Dr.-Ing. degree in mechanical engineering. Then, he became a Professor and Director of the Department for Process Control and Automation. His special research fields are production automation, mechatronics, robotics, sensors, and process control. As one of the Mechatronics pioneers in Germany, he established the European Centre for Mechatronics to promote the benefits of mechatronic engineering in the development of products, processes, and advanced technologies for industrial application. Prof. Drews is a member of many national and international technical and scientific boards and expert groups including advisory councils of the European Commission in Brussels.

For more than 30 years, Prof. Drews is especially active in cooperative research and development together with European enterprises from various industrial areas. His partners are from big electronic industries, automobile, railways, aerospace, shipbuilding industry, as well as construction machine manufacturers etc. all over the world. Prof. Drews published more than 300 scientific and technical reports and articles in various international journals. He was editor and co-editor of several books and reports on automation, mechatronics and robotics.

In the time that I knew Prof. Drews, I was very impressed and admired with his achievement as an outstanding university professor, a visionary manager, and an successful entrepreneur. I came to appreciate his warm personality, and his essential character as a team player. He always gave credit to others rather
than taking it himself. In interactions he treated all with equal respect and attention. I will miss him. It is a great loss to everyone who had the honor and the pleasure of knowing him personally and sending messages of condolence over the past few days. All of us in IES have been enriched by having known him, worked with him, and learned from him and his inspiration will continue to guide us in the years ahead.

Professor Ren C. Luo is Irving T. Ho Chair and Distinguished Professor of National Taiwan University. He is a Fellow of IEEE and Past President of IEEE Industrial Electronics Society

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Paul Drews