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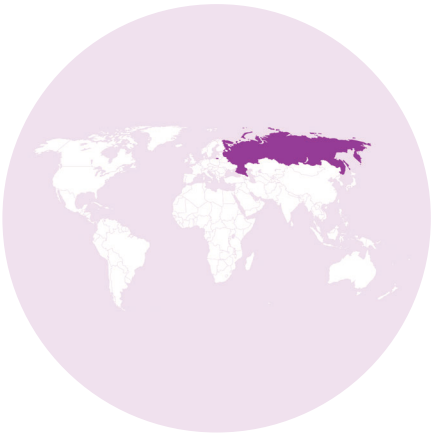
Yakovlevna Kochina, Pelageya

Famous Women in Hydraulics - Pelageya Yakovlevna Kochina

Hydrolink

FAMOUS WOMEN IN HYDRAULICS

The IAHR task force on Strengthening Gender Equity intends to raise the profile and visibility of women who made major contributions to hydraulics.



Pelageya Yakovlevna Kochina
1899–1999, Russia

In 1921, Pelageya Yakovlevna Kochina (born Polubarinova) graduated at Petrograd University as a mathematician and started working at its geophysical observatory in 1919. From 1927 to 1934, she was a lecturer at Leningrad University and a staff member of the Institute of Civil Aviation Engineering. In 1935, she moved to Moscow's Steklov Mathematical Institute but left for the institute of mechanics of the USSR Academy of Sciences in 1938. Submitting a doctoral thesis in mathematical and physical sciences in 1940, she was an associate of that institute until 1957. From 1958 onwards, she directed the department of applied hydrodynamics at Novosibirsk. In 1970, she returned to Moscow to direct the section of mathematical methods in mechanics at Moscow University.

Kochina is known for her fundamental contributions to the theory of flows in porous media. She developed a general method for solving two-dimensional seepage problems in homogeneous soils. Kochina's research was characterized by a deep and well-organized link with practice, a subtle attention to the physical essence of the phenomena considered, an exact mathematical formulation of the relevant physical problem, and a brilliant mastery of mathematics.

She was awarded, among many others, the Stalin prize in 1946, member of the USSR Academy of Sciences in 1958, Hero of socialist labour in 1969, and the Order of the Friendship of Nations in 1979.

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Biography extracted from the IAHR book *Hydraulicians in Europe 1800-2000*
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