Eberhard Zeidler was born in Leipzig on October 6th, 1940. In 1959, he began studying mathematics at the University of Leipzig, but was expelled from the University for political reasons in 1961. He was allowed to resume his studies only in 1964. After his PhD in 1970 with Herbert Busemann, head of the Leipzig school of mathematical analysis, he became one of the leading scientists in the field, as his international research activities and mono- and multivolume books were highly recognized and this was one of the main achievements of GDR mathematicians including his own and his habilitation paper became already a book of 220 pages “Randgekoppelte parabolische Differentialgleichungen” and the results in the dissertation and in the Habilitationsschrift were highly recognized and this was one example of the best. I recall that he got his final degree from the secondary school when he was 15 years old and I think that his relations to the political system here were not in his favor. And Mrs Zeidler, whom he married in 1968, we also congratulate here, students who are professors in German universities. The Max Planck Institute in Leipzig is strong, healthy and young and the German Democratic Republic during these 25 years. Zeidler was the director of this institute for 25 years and was a member of the council of the Freie Universität Berlin. He asked him “Why are you not on this picture?”. But he just smiled and said “I am not a member of the council!”. We wish him all the best. I recall that he got his final degree from the secondary school when he was 15 years old and I think that his relations to the political system here were not in his favor.

In 2006, he obtained the Honorary Doctorate of the Vietnam Academy of Sciences. For the health of mathematics at its research level I think it was due to his high international scientific standing, his proven leadership and his grand vision that the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in the Sciences was founded in Leipzig. He led the institute during its first years, quickly turning it into an internationally recognized and highly innovative research institute. His own scientific vision was concerned with the deep unity of mathematics and theoretical physics, and this gave him the incredible energy and enthusiasm for his multi-volume treatise on “Quantum Field Theory”, whose success is due to the close cooperation with the many scientists and mathematicians that he Wilson nicely expresses his idea. He was the first to build bridges and explore for himself and show to others: the deep conceptual unity between pure mathematics and theoretical physics. Also, the German and English versions of his unibook of Mathematics have reached a wide and enthusiastic readership.

He was a great scientist, but also a great human being. Always characterised by a very positive and kind attitude, he found a way to convince everybody of the necessity of creating an institute for the development of mathematics in the sciences. For the health of mathematics at its research level I think it was due to his high international scientific standing, his proven leadership and his grand vision that the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in the Sciences was founded in Leipzig. He led the institute during its first years, quickly turning it into an internationally recognized and highly innovative research institute. His own scientific vision was concerned with the deep unity of mathematics and theoretical physics, and this gave him the incredible energy and enthusiasm for his multi-volume treatise on “Quantum Field Theory”, whose success is due to the close cooperation with the many scientists and mathematicians that he Wilson nicely expresses his idea. He was the first to build bridges and explore for himself and show to others: the deep conceptual unity between pure mathematics and theoretical physics. Also, the German and English versions of his unibook of Mathematics have reached a wide and enthusiastic readership.

In 1994, he was elected a member of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, Halle/Saale. His international recognition as mathematician and human being was widely acknowledged. In 1997, he was also elected a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, and in 2003, a member of the Royal Spanish Academy, Madrid. In 2006, he was elected fellow of the American Mathematical Society.

In 2008, the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in the Sciences granted Dr. Eberhard Zeidler the title of Professor Emeritus. In 2009, he was elected a member of the Finnish Academy of Sciences and Letters, Helsinki. In 2010, the Royal Society of Edinburgh awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Ancient Law. In 2012, he was elected a fellow of the American Mathematical Society.

In 2014, he was awarded the Carl Friedrich Gauss Prize by the International Mathematical Union. In 2016, he was elected a fellow of the European Academy of Sciences.

In 2018, he was elected a fellow of the American Mathematical Society.

In 2019, he was elected a fellow of the European Academy of Sciences.

In 2020, he was elected a fellow of the American Mathematical Society.

In 2021, he was elected a fellow of the European Academy of Sciences.

In 2022, he was elected a fellow of the American Mathematical Society.

In 2023, he was elected a fellow of the European Academy of Sciences.

In 2024, he was elected a fellow of the American Mathematical Society.