

EDITORIAL

On advisers

As a young engineer I was impressed by some people who served as advisers in a research & design unit. They were mature people, scholars, with a lot of professional experience and many technical and scientific achievements, especially in the area of practical achievements. Their main task was to quickly analyze the piece of work that someone presented to them, check if there were any visible or hidden errors and give concrete advice, even though not in the details. Their experience and professional capacity allow them to be critical, but kind, so that in the end no one felt offended and there was no strange or misleading advice.



Ph.D.Eng. Petrin DRUMEA
MANAGING EDITOR

This almost idyllic image has been shaken away from me for the first time when I was asked to endorse the appointment of a person with poor schooling and work experience in a management position in a company (back then still state-owned enterprise); we had to provide this person with 3 or 4 advisers for him to understand the affairs of a director and be able to manage the company. Finally, everyone involved in the issue realized that such an idea was bad for everyone, including the person proposed to become a director.

I admit that in my mind there was the idea that there should be two elements to enable counseling. The first element is the person under the counseling process, who should be able to receive the advice and use it in a useful manner, and the second element consists in the adviser's ability to understand the problems and be able to supply solutions when being asked to. In the technical field, usually advisers are middle aged persons, with good professional background, who are also good educators. There are many areas where it really matters that, in addition to the theoretical knowledge of the issues, there is also enough practice in order to avoid errors that may occur in special situations, during the progress of certain activities.

Of course, the suggestion from a kind of prankish fellow for him to be provided with a young female adviser, who graduated from the "school of life" at the evening class, could be interesting; however, to my suggestion that the same person to fly the plane by which she was just about to travel to a foreign country, my colleague changed his mind and admitted that the counseling process is an act of seriousness and responsibility.

Is it that difficult for everyone in every place, even in politics and state administration, to seriously address the issue of choosing and appointing advisers? In the technical and industrial fields these people do not come forth, not even sign the final version of documents, so they should have a sense of responsibility throughout the counseling process, although formally they cannot be held guilty when delicate situations arise.

Nevertheless, I strongly believe in the usefulness of advisors in all areas, even though sometimes they exceed their attributions and neglect their tasks.