

Dr. Hadi Mahabadi, An innovation leader and strategic thinker, Vice President and Director of XRCC, awarded as “Officer of the Order of Canada”, “Top 25 Canadian Immigrants” and “New Pioneer’s Award in Science and Technology”. Dr. Mahabadi came to Canada in early 70’s. The article was published on www.hadimahabadi.com

Dr. Hadi Mahabadi was born in Iran and came to Canada in early 70’s for his post-graduate studies in chemical engineering. He received his masters and PhD from University of Waterloo in record time.

During his studies he developed a formula and theory which are being used widely in the field of polymer and taught in many universities worldwide.

He returned to Iran and became the chair of the Chemical Engineering Department at Tehran university of Technology. But in 1981, after the revolution, his desire to live and work in a country which had respect for freedom and human rights, prompted him to leave Iran and immigrate to Canada.

Upon arriving in Canada with his pregnant wife and two year old son, Hadi was faced with significant financial hardship, language barrier, and lacked Canadian work experience.

Dr. Mahabadi joined Xerox Research Centre of Canada as a researcher and, with hard work and perseverance, managed to demonstrate his qualifications and climbed in the company to its highest research position in Canada as the vice president and director of XRCC, establishing himself as an R&D executive and science and technology thought leader in Canada. He retired from Xerox on September 1st 2011.

Hadi has published more than 100 scientific papers, holds over 89US patents and has presented in many major international conferences. In honour of his scientific contributions, he was elected as a Fellow of the Chemical Institute of Canada, Fellow of International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, and Fellow of Canadian Academy of Engineering.

He has also received many awards and recognitions for his accomplishments including two Xerox’s President Award, the corporation’s highest honour for individual achievement.

On November 30th, 2012, Dr. Mahabadi was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This award was presented to him by His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnson, Governor General of Canada. On June 29th, 2012 it was announced by His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada that Dr. Mahabadi was made an Officer of the Order of Canada. This is one of Canada’s highest civilian honors, which recognizes a lifetime of outstanding achievement dedication to community and service to the nation. Dr. Mahabadi is recognized for his significant contributions to the advancement of science and innovation in Canada.

In 2010 he received the Printing Industries of America Robert F. Reed Technology Medal for his significant contribution to the digital printing industry.

In 2010 he was elected to the Top 25 Canadian Immigrants of year in recognition of his achievements and contributions that has positively changed the face of Canada since his arrival in Canada.

Hadi was ranked number one among Print Action magazine's 50 most influential Canadians in Graphic Communications both in 2008 and 2009,

In 2008, University of Waterloo awarded him Engineering Alumni's Achievement Medal for his extraordinary professional achievements and for being an exceptional strategic thinker. In 2009, Hadi received the New Pioneer's Award in Science and Technology, an award recognizing achievements and contributions of successful immigrants in the GTA.

As part of his community involvement, Dr. Mahabadi serves as a volunteer on a number of national and regional task forces and committees helping to shape the future direction of Canada's science and technology industry and strengthening a knowledge-based economy in Canada. He has also been involved in mentoring other scientists and by giving presentations across Canada, encouraging high school students to pursue the field of science.

Hadi also serves on board of governor or advisory board of few universities in Canada. Recently he was elected as the vice-chair and member of board of directors of Chemical Institute of Canada, the national organization which overlooks all chemistry, chemical engineering and chemical technologist professionals in Canada.

Dr. Mahabadi has also been involved in promoting the value of diversity in Canadian industries and organizations. He is a member of Diversity Committee of Toronto Board of Trade, member of Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council and helping Skill for Change to assist new immigrants in Canada. In fact XRCC received the 2007 Immigrant Success Award largely due to Hadi's leadership in building a strong organization of diverse and qualified researchers.

At an international level, Dr. Mahabadi is a member of the Science and Technology delegation of People to People Ambassador, helping to establish relationship between scientists in different parts of the world