

A BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE ABOUT ŞAFAK ALPAY

Çafak Ömer Alpay was born in İstanbul in 1948. He received his B. Sc. degree in mathematics from Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara, Turkey in 1970. He worked as a research assistant in the Department of Mathematics of Middle East Technical University. In 1971, he moved to the United Kingdom to pursue postgraduate studies. His first supervisor was the late Professor Ulku Kuran of Liverpool University. As this was not realized, he joined the graduate programme at the Imperial College at the University of London for a M. Sc. Degree in pure mathematics. His supervisor at the Imperial College was Professor James Clunie. He obtained his Master's Degree in 1972 with a mark of distinction from the Senate of the University of London. Upon Professor Clunie's suggestion, he moved to the Chelsea College at the University of London to work under the supervision of the late Professor J. L. B. Cooper. Later, he continued under the supervision of Dr. Francis Jellett and obtained his Ph.D. Degree in 1978.

In the same year, Çafak Alpay joined the faculty of Middle East Technical University, and, except for semester long visits to Eastern Mediterranean University and Darmstadt Technical University, he has worked there since then. Besides having more than 30 research papers published, Çafak Alpay has been the advisor or co-advisor of a number of Ph.D. students working in the field of Positivity. Of these, Omer Gök, Bahri Turan, Ayse Uyar, Birol Altin, Tunc Misirlioğlu, Ali Binhadjah and Faruk Polat could be mentioned. Undoubtedly, he has been the driving force in creating a school of Positivity in Turkey through his seminal contributions.

Çafak Alpay has served as the head of the Department of Mathematics at METU twice for a total of 6 years. He was one of the main organizers of the first Positivity Conference held at METU in 1997, after which Positivity conferences have been held biannually. Prof. Alpay was also the founder of Mathematics Foundation.

Çafak Alpay's interests in popularizing mathematics are closely related to his awareness of social events in his country. In particular, he has contributed to the popular magazines such as «Bilim ve Ütopya» (Science and Utopia) and «Matematik Dünyası» (World of Mathematics), being both a columnist and a member of the publishing board. In a similar vein, he is a member of the Advisory Board of Nesin Mathematics Village, an independent organization that provides support to students willing to study mathematics.

Considering his accomplishments, we wish Prof. Çafak Alpay long life and further success on the occasion of his 60th birthday.