

Jun-le Zhao, Shan-jin Zeng

Shou-bo Xu: a Brief Biography

Shou-bo Xu

Professor and Doctoral Supervisor

Beijing Jiaotong University
Member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering



Professor Shou-bo Xu was born in Shaoxing of Zhejiang Province in September 1931. He graduated from Nanjing Institute of Technology (Southeast University since 1988) in 1955, and then Energy Research Institute in the Soviet Union Academy of Sciences in 1960 with a degree of Sub-Doctor in Technology and Science. As a famous economist of integrated energy engineering and technology, he works as a professor and doctoral supervisor at the School of Economics and Management of Beijing Jiaotong University.

Professor Xu is one of the pioneers of integrated energy engineering and logistics engineering, and one of the founders of technological economics in China as well. He has been devoting himself to the promotion of the advancement of knowledge in these areas and has been making great contributions to the development of technology in China.

Professor Xu took an active part in the consultant, research and developing activities concerning energy engineering and logistics management. He had served at many academic and consultant posts, such as, the consultant of the National Energy Commission, the director of the Consultant Commission of the Energy Office of the State Council, the director of the Integrated Energy Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (the predecessor of the Energy Research Institute of the National Development and Reform Commission), the first chairman of the Chinese Society of Technological Economics, the first director of the Technological and Economic Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (the predecessor of the Institute of Quantitative Economics and Technological Economics), the director of the Technological and Economic Research Institute of the State Planning Commission, and the vice chairman of the Chinese Society for Logistics. He is now working at Beijing Jiaotong University, as the director of its Integrated Energy Research Institute, and the principal of its School of Logistics Management.

Professor Xu is known as the creator of the theory of Great Material Flow, that is, Large Logistics. All material flow, according to the theory, in the natural world, the social world and the economic world, is formed of five elements, the material, the flow, the subject, the region and the time, with, accordingly, five properties. The Great Material Flow is a theory complex, of the theory of flow of materials, the theory of material flow engineering, the theory of material flow science and technology, and the theory of material flow industry.

Professor Xu has published many papers and monographs. His monographs, which had great impacts on the academic communities in China, include *Technological Economics* (1st ed., 1980; 2nd ed., 1984; 3rd ed., 1986; 4th ed., 1988), *Economics of Energy Technology* (1982), *Energy Saving in a Broad Sense* (1982), *Theory of Integrated Energy*

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Engineering (1st ed., 1986; 2nd ed., 1988; 3rd ed., 1997), and *Strategic Choices for Energy Development* (1989).

Over the past 40 years, he has achieved much in the fields of integrated energy engineering, technological economics and comprehensive material flow engineering, and, for his theoretical and applicative contributions, has been awarded over 50 prizes, by the National Science Conference, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the State Planning Commission and the Government of Beijing City.

He was elected a member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE) in 2001.

Professor Xu achieved much because of his devotion to research and his patience to overcome difficulties. In the years of “The Great Cultural Revolution” from 1966 to 1976, he suffered much, and yet struggled for the continuity of his research in energy economics and technological economics, pushing the two sciences to their frontiers.

Professor Xu likes to stay in quiet places, reading, thinking and writing. He is a man with a good sense of humour.