

Kenjiro Suzuki – in Memoriam



On April 25th, 2007 Professor Kenjiro Suzuki, one of the most active and respected international leaders in the heat transfer, turbulence and combustion communities, passed away at the age of 67 after a year-long battle against progressive cancer. While his family members devoted themselves to every possible support for his struggle, they, like the rest of the thermo-fluids community, were numbed at the sudden and tragically premature departure of Professor Suzuki who still had so much left to give. Indeed, because throughout his career he so strongly promoted international collaboration, he was admired and respected around the world as much for his personal qualities as for his research contributions.

Professor Suzuki was born in Shanghai on January 3, 1940, and spent his early years in Okayama. After working in industry for a year following his graduation, he returned to the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Kyoto University as Instructor in 1964, and obtained the degree of Doctor of Engineering from the University in 1971. He was appointed to Associate Professor in 1975 and Professor in 1986. There he remained until his mandatory retirement in 2003 when he moved to Shibaura Institute of Technology in Tokyo.

Over his professional career he made extremely broad contributions to the advancement of knowledge in turbulence and associated heat/mass transfer, in unsteady convective heat transfer, two-phase-flow heat transfer,

crystal-growth processes, and in combustion. In recent years, he became deeply involved in sustainable energy, especially fuel cells as well as a hybrid fuel-cell/gas-turbine system for distributed generation. In many respects his work was truly pioneering, employing novel methods and techniques based on his original theoretical considerations. His work in turbulence and turbulent heat transfer has always been of an exemplary standard. His contributions ranged from very basic studies of turbulence structure to turbulent convective heat transfer, impinging-jet heat transfer, control of turbulent flows, and heat exchangers. His theory on the “dissimilarity between momentum and heat transfer” has been verified in a turbulent boundary layer with an inserted cylinder through his fine experiments and numerical simulations. These are just examples of how his outstanding original research has advanced understanding of the complex mechanisms of convective heat transfer and stimulated progress in computational heat transfer and fluid dynamics. He published more than 300 journal and conference papers on these subjects, delivered an array of invited and keynote lectures and supervised for their BS, ME and Dr. Eng. theses numerous students, many of whom now play important roles in Academia and Industry.

He committed his energies to many international scientific and educational activities. He served as Editor for *Heat Transfer Japanese Research*, and the *International Journal of Heat & Mass Transfer*, his efforts greatly

contributing to the high standing of these journals. In the area of international conference organization, he worked both as overall Conference Chairman and as Chairman of the Papers Committee for the Ninth Symposium on Turbulent Shear Flows in Kyoto 1993, a meeting to which three of the editors of this journal (BEL, FWS and NK) were privileged to contribute. We know that many among the turbulence research community greatly praised his excellent scientific and administrative contributions to that event. His work as a Member of the Scientific Committee of the 10th International Heat Transfer Conference (1994) and Chairman of the 10th International Symposium on Transport Phenomena (1997) further demonstrated his outstanding capacity for leadership. In recent years he also worked enthusiastically in key roles for the International Centre for Heat and Mass Transfer such as Chairman of its Executive Committee. He was also appointed to prestigious visiting appointments at world-leading universities, serving as Springer Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, Visiting Professor at the Institut National Polytechnique de Grenoble, Burgers Professor at Delft University of Technology, and a Guest Professor at the Japan Center of Stanford University.

He was a very active member of several professional societies in Japan such as the Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers (JSME) for which he was Chair of the Thermal Engineering Division and the Heat Transfer Society of Japan (HTSJ) where he served as its President. In recogni-

tion of his excellent publications, lectures and contributions to the research communities in the USA, Europe and Asia he has received numerous awards and honors, including the JSME Outstanding Paper Medal, the JSME Thermal Engineering Award for Outstanding Leadership, the HTSJ Award for Scientific Contributions, the Polish Government Medal *Komisji Edukacji Narodowej*, and the Fellowship Award of the International Centre for Heat and Mass Transfer.

Without doubt, his achievements above demonstrate his keen intellect, his professional judgment, and his great capacity for high-level leadership while also attending to fine-scale, detailed administration. Those close to him also appreciated his sparkling wit and warm personality. Some suggest that his open-minded disposition may have developed, in part, from his long association with the Rowing Club of Kyoto University.

He was married to his wife, Akiko, for 43 years, and they had two daughters, one son and a grandchild. We express our deepest sympathy to them in their great loss while keeping our own enduring and very fond memories of Kenjiro Suzuki.

Thomas Gatski
Nobuhide Kasagi
Brian Launder
Frank Schmidt