



Personal Report

Laudatio to Professors Ryozo Echigo, Masaru Hirata and Ichiro Tanasawa

It is our great pleasure to present this Festschrift to three prominent Japanese scholars, Professor Ryozo Echigo, Professor Masaru Hirata and Professor Ichiro Tanasawa, who have attained outstanding achievements in education and research in the field of heat and mass transfer. We invited their former students including Shigefumi Nishio, Associate Editor, to contribute to this special issue of the journal. Three others, Yasunobu Fujita, Fumimaru Ogino and Kenjiro Suzuki who recently served or currently serve the Heat Transfer Society of Japan as President, also joined to contribute their papers to this Festschrift representing the Japanese heat transfer academia. We all would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Professors Echigo, Hirata and Tanasawa.

Joining with Professor Yasuo Mori, the Editor of this journal at that time, Professors Echigo and Tanasawa published a tribute to Professor Kaneyasu Nishikawa and two other late Professors Takashi Sato and Tokuro Mizushima in this journal in 1987 and wrote themselves that the first Heat Transfer Symposium of Japan was held in Kyoto in 1964. At that time, Professor Hirata was a young Associate Professor of Heat Transfer at the University of Tokyo and Professor Tanasawa had just started his professional career in the field of heat transfer at the University of Tokyo. Professor Echigo was doing Doctoral Thesis work in the field of heat transfer at the University of Tokyo. This was the time when the Japanese heat transfer academia started its rapid uprising and expansion. Professors Echigo, Hirata and Tanasawa have been playing central roles in this movement in various ways. The roles that they played will be described in detail in the following tributes for each of them authored by their former students.

It is worthwhile to mention briefly here how devotedly they served the international heat transfer academia. Professor Tanasawa and Professor Echigo respectively served as Editor and Associate Editor of the International Journal of Heat and Mass Transfer for more than 10 years. A large number of papers have been published through their offices and they have contributed to acti-

vate the heat transfer academia not only in Japan but also in other countries in Asia through their editorial works. They also served the International Centre of Heat and Mass Transfer as the members of its Executive Committee and Scientific Committee for several years. Professor Hirata has been serving the assembly of the International Heat Transfer Conference for 12 years. During this period of time, the quota of papers allocated to the academia of Japan including Hong Kong, Taiwan and other South East Asian countries has been more than doubled and it reached 120, in the last conference held at Grenoble in 2002, just the same number as that allocated to the USA. All three Professors have organized international conferences on topics in the field of heat transfer at Tokyo, Kyoto and other places in Japan. In all these their services, they contributed to activate the research activities in the field of heat transfer not only in Japan but also in other west side Pacific rim countries.

On behalf of all Japanese researchers and engineers working in the field of heat transfer, we sincerely express appreciation for their devoted service and contribution to education and research in this field and wish them good health and further success in their professional activities.

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