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In Memoriam

Professor Ichiro Tanasawa (1936–2014)



It is with deep sorrow that we note the passing of Professor Ichiro Tanasawa on June 6, 2014 at the age of 78. Professor Tanasawa was one of the outstanding editors of the *International Journal of Heat and Mass Transfer* and of the *International Communications in Heat and Mass Transfer* as well as a leading figure in the international heat and mass transfer community.

Professor Tanasawa was born on January 1, 1936 in Sendai, an old feudal capital in Japan where he lived until the age of 18. In 1954, he moved to Tokyo where he spent most of his life. Professor Tanasawa started his professional career in 1963 when he completed his Doctor of Engineering thesis supervised by Professor Fujio Tachibana on the application of extended surfaces to boiling heat transfer. Subsequently, he remained at Institute of Industrial Science, The University of Tokyo (IIS) as an Associate Professor and was promoted to Professor in 1976. During his career at IIS, Professor Tanasawa visited the University of Michigan from 1968 to 1969 where he started his work in the field of bioengineering, and Queen Mary College, University of London from March to May in 1982. After 33 years of intensive contribution to research, education and national scientific committees, Professor Tanasawa retired from The University of Tokyo in 1996 and moved to Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology where he was professor for 3 years, followed by a move to Nihon University, where he retired in 2006.

As a researcher, Professor Tanasawa was a pioneer of several topics in the field of heat and mass transfer. His works in dropwise condensation, MHD, EHD and biotransport have been published in over 100 journal articles and 17 books. His papers entitled “The Effect of an External Magnetic Field on Natural Convection during the Crystal Growth Process from a Melt” and “Designing Pre-Freezing and Freezing Process of Biological Tissues” were awarded the Medal for Outstanding Paper by the Japan Society of

Mechanical Engineers (JSME) in 1989 and in 2001. His contribution in these fields was also recognized by a Prize for Credit from JSME Bioengineering Division in 1998 and with an Outstanding Leadership Award from JSME Thermal Engineering Division in 1999.

Professor Tanasawa was acknowledged as an important and valued opinion leader of the Japanese research society in the field of thermal engineering and of heat and mass transfer. His standing in this regard was recognized by the facts that he was elected president of several academic societies including the JSME (2000), Heat Transfer Society of Japan (1993), and Japan Society of Thermophysical Properties (1992). He also devoted much effort to scientific committees of the Japanese government and served as an expert member of the Council for Science and Technology, Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture between 1984 and 1988, and between 1993 and 1996.

Professor Tanasawa served the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry as a member of the Energy and Environment Committee (“Moon Light Project”), the Agency of Industrial Science and Technology between 1986 and 1992 and as an expert member of the Industrial Structure Council for a further two years. He also served the Science Council of Japan as a member of the Thermal Engineering Committee for 10 years from 1980 and the Science and Technology Agency as a member of the Space Development Committee for two years from 1994.

Professor Tanasawa’s international activities are especially notable. As well as his role as an editor of the *International Journal of Heat and Mass Transfer* and of *International Communications in Heat and Mass Transfer* from 1986 until 1999 he enthusiastically contributed to forming an international network for researchers in the field of thermal engineering and heat and mass transfer. He organized a number of international conferences, including The International Symposium on Molecular and Micro Scale Heat Transfer in Materials Processing and Other Applications at Yokohama in 1996, the Oji International Seminar on Advanced Heat Transfer in Manufacturing and Processing of New Materials at Tomakomai in 1990, the ASME/JSME Thermal Engineering Joint Conference at Honolulu in 1987 and co-chaired, with Jerry Taborek and John Rose, the Engineering Foundation Conference: Condensation and Condenser Design held in St Augustine, Florida in 1993. For his international research activities, JSME Thermal Engineering Division honored him with The International Contribution Award in 1995.

His officially recorded contributions are only a part of the legacy of Professor Tanasawa. Those who know him appreciated his generous and warm personality. His frank and open attitude with helpful and insightful suggestions inspired and often sparked new ideas in those who had contact with him. Professor Tanasawa was beloved by his many friends in Japan and in the international community. One of us (JWR) would like to

acknowledge a sincere debt of gratitude to Professor Tanasawa whom he first met at the International Heat Transfer Conference in Paris 1970. We had similar views about dropwise condensation which differed from those of almost all other workers in the field at that time. We subsequently became lifelong friends and through him began my long and happy association with Japan and close friendships with many Japanese professors and colleagues in industry and their families.

On behalf of the editors of this journal, his colleagues and friends, former students and co-workers and the world-wide heat transfer community, we offer our sincere condolences to his wife and to his daughter. We all shall miss him.

John W. Rose
Queen Mary University of London, United Kingdom

Shigefumi Nishio
Ryo Shirakashi
The University of Tokyo, Japan

Yoshio Utaka
Yokohama National University, Japan