

Professor Masahiro Shoji on his 75th Birthday



Professor Masahiro Shoji, who was born in a small village of Shikoku island of Japan on August 19 in 1943, is celebrating his 75th birthday this year. On this occasion, we wish to appreciate his outstanding contributions and accomplishments in the field of heat and mass transfer.

Prof. Shoji graduated from the University of Tokyo (UTokyo) in 1966 and finished his graduate course in 1971, receiving the degree of Doctor of Engineering. He immediately joined the UTokyo's Department of Mechanical Engineering as a lecturer and became a full professor in 1985, succeeding the chair of Prof. Yoshiro Katto. After the retirement from UTokyo in 2004, he worked at AIST in Tsukuba for two years as an invited scientist, and then moved to Kanagawa University (KU) in Yokohama where besides education and research, he engaged in the management of the university as a trustee, councilor and faculty dean. In 2014, he retired from KU and leaved from most academic duties. During the period of UTokyo and KU, he supervised over three hundreds graduate and undergraduate students. His present status is Emeritus Professor of UTokyo.

The main research subjects of Prof. Shoji concerned with boiling heat transfer and surface tension driven phenomena. He also had interests in many other problems of heat transfer and fluid phenomena such as vapor explosion, spray cooling, heat conduction and thermo-fluid chaos. He authored and co-authored about four hundreds journal and conference papers including four characteristic review articles. He wrote and edited eight books and handbooks and contributed to chapters of many other books.

Besides the research, he played an important role in Japanese academic societies. He served as the president of The Heat Transfer Society of Japan (HTSJ) and a director of Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers (JSME). He chaired numerous committees of the societies. For these contributions, he was honored as a fellow and an emeritus member of JSME and a permanent honored member of HTSJ. His contribution to the development of engineering and technology in Japan is also remarkable. He was an active member of the government committees and of many scientific communities. Especially, he has been devoting himself to the development of energy-saving technology through the job of JMF (The Japan Machinery Foundation), and in 2001 he was appointed as a reviewer delegated from Japan to select ISS research programs. The international contribution of Prof. Shoji is also noteworthy. He was an assembly member delegated from Japan for IHTC and attracted the 15th IHTC to Japan. He organized five international conferences as a chair or a co-chair and served as an active member of over fifty international conferences. At such fifteen conferences, he presented keynote speeches. He also contributed to edit and publish nine international journals. For these eminent contributions, he won a commendation as a distinguished scientist by Tokyo Metropolitan Government in 2005 and received a lot of other awards including Nusselt-Reynolds prize in 2005.

At present, continuing a few academic duties, Prof. Shoji is spending his spare time by enjoying his hobbies (tennis and "Go" game) and by visiting temples and shrines inside Japan. We wish him a happy and healthy birthday and many returns of the day.

Shigeo Maruyama
Hideo Yoshida

