

In Memoriam

Professor Kenjiro Suzuki (1940-2007)



It is with deep sorrow that we note the passing of Professor Kenjiro Suzuki on April 25, 2007 at the age of 67. Professor Suzuki was one of the outstanding editors of the *International Journal of Heat and Mass Transfer* and the *International Communications in Heat and Mass Transfer* as well as a leading figure in the international community of heat and mass transfer. Just before his final rest, he continued to work on the basis of his own words, “There are many things to do as the responsibility of the ones living in this transient society,” courageously struggling with cancer for over a year.

Professor Suzuki was born on January 3, 1940, in Shanghai, China, and grew up in Okayama, Japan. After he enrolled in the Department of Mechanical Engineering of Kyoto University in 1958, he spent five years there, including one year at the graduate school. After he worked for one

year at a steel-manufacturing company, in 1964 he returned to Kyoto University as an instructor and started his academic career. In 1971 he obtained his doctor's degree in the field of liquid spray diffusion flame under the supervision of Professor Takashi Sato, one of the founding editors of the *International Journal of Heat and Mass Transfer*. Professor Suzuki was successively appointed as an associate professor in 1975, and became a full professor in 1986. At the time of his retirement from Kyoto University in 2003, he had contributed as an enthusiastic educator as well as a creative researcher for 39 years. In 2003, he moved from his favorite city, Kyoto, to Tokyo, and served as a Senior Professor at Shibaura Institute of Technology.

The international activity of Professor Suzuki was strongly enhanced after his visit to the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine in London, United Kingdom, and Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands, from 1976 to 1977. His research on turbulent heat transfer was inspired by the pioneering members of Imperial College, Professor Brian Spalding, Professor Brian Launder, Professor Kemal Hanjalić, and other colleagues. As a result, in the series Symposium on Turbulent Shear Flows (STSF) held every two years, he played a key role as a member of the scientific committee. In 1993, he contributed as the chairman of the Ninth STSF held in Kyoto, and his efficient and capable organization of the conference was greatly appreciated.

Other than turbulent heat transfer, his research covered a wide range of topics relating to thermal engineering, such as combustion instability, numerical simulation on complex heat and mass transfer phenomena, two-phase flows, and crystal growth. In particular, in his last ten years, he contributed to the development of a distributed generation system consisting of a solid oxide fuel cell and a microturbine, and his able leadership in the big project of the Japan Science and Technology Agency successfully laid seeds for the next generation.

For 15 years since 1992, Professor Suzuki had been in charge of the editorial work of the *International Journal of Heat and Mass Transfer* and the *International Communications in Heat and Mass Transfer* mainly for the submissions from the Asian region. Simultaneously, he was an active member as the advisory board of the *International Journal of Heat and Fluid Flow*. Also, Professor Suzuki contributed to numerous international organizations and conferences on heat and

mass transfer. We cannot forget the scene when Professor Suzuki stood as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the International Centre for Heat and Mass Transfer (ICHMT) on the main stage at the 13th International Heat Transfer Conference in August 2006 when his disease already advanced. Regrettably, for most of us, it was the last occasion when we met him.

From the viewpoint of Japanese colleagues, Professor Suzuki was a reliable leader who could represent the status of Japan in the international community of heat and mass transfer. He served as Chairman of the Thermal Engineering Division (TED) of the Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers (JSME) in 1996, and President of the Heat Transfer Society of Japan (HTSJ) in 1999.

In recognition of his prominent contributions to the worldwide community, he received many awards and honors, including the Award for Outstanding Leadership and the Award for International Activity of TED, JSME, the Scientific Contribution Award of HTSJ, and the Fellowship Award of ICHMT. Also, he was appointed as Springer Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and Burgers Professor at Delft University of Technology.

We also remember Professor Suzuki as an enthusiastic promoter of international academic exchange. At both Kyoto University and Shibaura Institute of Technology, he endeavored to open new ways for foreign students as Chairman of the international student committees. Until his last period, he had repeatedly visited universities in American, European and Asian countries. Also, his laboratory always had a collegial atmosphere and was filled with foreign students from various countries under his kind guidance. As a typical outcome of his sincere effort, the Polish government bestowed the “Medal Komisji Edukacji Narodowej” on him because he established and promoted excellent international educational programs and international cooperation. As an OB and the supervisor of the rowing club of Kyoto University, one of his lifelong dreams was an international race with a powerful university team, which, regrettably, was not realized.

On the occasions of the 7th ASME-JSME Thermal Engineering Conference at Vancouver in July, 2007, the 18th International Symposium on Transport Phenomena at Daejeon in August, 2007, and the JSME TED Conference at Kyoto in November, 2007, we had memorial sessions for Professor Suzuki. All the persons attending the sessions remembered that he was really a superb

man with intelligence, passionate energy, justice and a warm heart. He and his wife, Akiko, had two daughters, a son and a grandchild, and furthermore another grandchild was newly born in July, 2007 after he passed away. To them we also express our sincere gratitude for sharing Professor Suzuki with us.

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 condolences to his wife and to his two daughters and the son. We all will miss him.

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