
INTERNATIONAL THERMOELECTRIC ACADEMY

KIN-ICHI UEMURA

(Dedicated to the 90-th anniversary)



February 6, 2013 is the day of the 90th anniversary of Kin-ichi Uemura, academician of International Thermoelectric Academy, Doctor of Technical Sciences, a director of Institute for Thermoelectric Technologies Japan.

Kin-ichi Uemura was born in Saga prefecture Japan. He graduated as a Bachelor of Technical Sciences from Faculty of Engineering, Tokyo University (1946). The scientific interests of Kin-ichi Uemura cover a wide scope of relevant problems of modern thermoelectricity.

Since 1956 Uemura's professional activity has been inseparable related to thermoelectricity. He has studied the electrophysical properties of thermoelectric semiconductor materials, heat exchange processes, developed thermoelectric modules and devices on their basis in Thermoelectric Research Laboratory of Engineering Division, Komatsu Co. Ltd.

Kin-ichi Uemura has been in charge of scientific and development projects on thermoelectric cooling. Their subject matter: technology for production of superpure *Bi*, *Te*, *Sb* and other source materials; increase of thermoelectric figure of merit of materials based on bismuth telluride; methods for fabrication of thermoelectric modules for coolers and air-conditioners, including high-current ($I_{\max} = \sim 30$ A) thermoelectric modules without ceramic substrates.

These studies formed the basis for his doctoral thesis brilliantly maintained in Tokyo University in 1961, and successful completion of the projects served the basis for creation in 1960 of a subsidiary company Komatsu Electronics Inc., the thermoelectric department of which was headed by Kin-ichi Uemura in 1960 – 1988, who was responsible for the thermoelectric activity of the company.

The scientist's high international prestige, his remarkable organizing talent, commercial success of his developments resulted in creation in 1990 of Institute for Thermoelectric Technologies Japan (ITTJ) of which Kin-ichi Uemura became a director.

Kin-ichi Uemura successfully combines scientific and production, administrative and social activities. He was organizer of the 12-th International Conference on Thermoelectrics (ICT93) and International Short Course on Thermoelectrics (SCT93) in Yokogama, Japan. In 1993 – 1996 he performed duties of a member of the Board of the International Thermoelectric Society. In 1994 Kin-ichi Uemura was elected academician and Vice-President of International Thermoelectric Academy (ITA). He is editorial board member and distributor of "Journal of Thermoelectricity". In 2002 Honorable Golden Prize of International Thermoelectric Academy was awarded to him for the fundamental contribution to development of thermoelectricity. Now Kin-ichi Uemura is at a well-deserved rest.

International Thermoelectric Academy, Institute of Thermoelectricity of the National Academy of Sciences and Ministry of Education and Science, Youth and Sports of Ukraine congratulate the esteemed Kin-ichi Uemura on his 90th jubilee, wishing him success in his multifarious activity, good health and longevity.