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## KIN-ICHI UEMURA

(06.02.1923 – 23.04.2014)



On April 24, 2014, after a short illness, in his 92-nd year of life academician of International Thermoelectric Academy, Doctor of Technical Sciences Kin-ichi Uemura passed away.

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 inseparably related to thermoelectricity. For many years 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. At Komatsu, Kin-ichi Uemura has been in charge of scientific and development projects on thermoelectric cooling. These studies formed the basis for his doctoral thesis brilliantly maintained in Tokyo University in 1961. Successful completion of the projects brought into being in 1960 a subsidiary company Komatsu Electronics Inc., and Kin-ichi Uemura took charge of its thermoelectric department. From 1960 till 1988 he was responsible for the entire thermoelectric activity of the company.

Kin-ichi Uemura'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 he became a director.

Kin-ichi Uemura successfully combined 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 1994 Kin-ichi Uemura was elected academician and Vice-President of International Thermoelectric Academy (ITA). He was editorial board member of "Journal of Thermoelectricity". In 2002 Honorable Golden Prize of International Thermoelectric Academy (ITA) was awarded to him for the fundamental contribution to development of thermoelectricity.

International Thermoelectric Academy, Institute of Thermoelectricity of the NAS Ukraine, "Journal of Thermoelectricity" Publishers are mourning over the death of an outstanding scientist, engineer and teacher, a modest man Kin-ichi Uemura and extend sincere condolences to his near and dear ones. The memory of Kin-ichi Uemura will remain forever in the hearts of his friends, colleagues and disciples.