



American Nuclear Society Thermal Hydraulics Division

Excerpt from THERMAL HYDRAULICS DIVISION 2009 SPRING NEWSLETTER

Dr Mamoru Akiyama, NURETH-13 Honorary Co-Chair, Professor Emeritus of Tokyo University and leader in the nuclear thermal-hydraulics community in Japan, has passed away April 1st, 2009. The following articles are an excerpt from the ANS Thermal Hydraulics Division Newsletter issued May 2009 <http://thd.ans.org/Newsletters/2009-1.pdf>.

In Memory of Professor M. Akiyama



What comes to mind when we think of Professor Akiyama? I think those of us who knew him personally would probably agree that he was a kind, decent, and graceful leader – the kind of leader whom we would love

to follow because he possessed quiet magnetism - friendly, gentle, warm yet firm, with a sense of care for others - that naturally endeared him to us. In this era of exhibitionism, we may be prone to exude an air of self-importance but for Professor Akiyama such demeanor seemed to be below his dignity - he was always considerate, unassuming, and never imposing.

I am not writing anything new here, but Professor Akiyama was a consummate professional – an outstanding scholar, educator, innovator, and administrator, all rolled in one. He was passionate about nuclear energy, particularly nuclear safety and thermal hydraulics in which he made significant contributions. Along the way, he had touched the hearts of many, helping them grow professionally.

Many of us are fortunate to have known him and to have enjoyed the privilege of working with him on occasions, invariably benefiting from his knowledge, wisdom, and friendship. As a senior member of ANS THD, he was an icon for major international conferences such as NUTHOS, NURETH, ICONE, Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference (PBNC), and

ICAPP, particularly when these events were held in the Pacific Rim countries. His passing is so untimely and unfortunate for NURETH-13 to be held later this year for which he was to serve as Honorary Co-Chair.

Professor Akiyama was well loved by everyone around him and his contributions to his profession are highly respected by the international community of nuclear safety and thermal hydraulics. We should all be grateful that our times partly coincided with his.

Professor Akiyama will be missed but his legacy and the memories we have shared with him will live forever in our hearts and thoughts.

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Professor Mamoru Akiyama was an inter-nationally renowned thermal hydraulic researcher and nuclear engineering professor in the nuclear engineering and mechanical engineering communities for several decades. His leadership and vision spawned many highly successful research programs in the nuclear engineering field, including development reactor safety analysis techniques and investigations to advance the current understanding of phenomena in nuclear reactors. The technical guidance he provided as President of the Institute of Applied Energy helped the

institute maintain its status as a showcase of Japanese excellence in energy engineering.

Professor Akiyama received his bachelor's degree in 1958 and a doctorate in 1970, both in mechanical engineering, from the University of Tokyo. Following five years at the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute, Professor Akiyama joined the University of Tokyo in 1963 as a faculty member in the Nuclear Engineering Department. From 1996, he served as Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo while holding a series of prestigious and demanding positions including:

- President, Saitama Institute of Technology
- Member, Science Council of Japan
- President, Atomic Energy Society of Japan
- President, Pacific Nuclear Council
- Vice President, Japan Atomic Industrial Forum
- President, Institute of Applied Energy since 2003

Recognizing the need for international collaboration among researchers, Professor Akiyama promoted international meetings and other interactions among the nuclear communities of various countries. He was a member of the American Nuclear Society from 1992 to 1999 and frequently attended and chaired multinational

conferences. Professor Akiyama was an influential member in growing the ICONE (International Conference on Nuclear Engineering) conference series, a joint JSME-ASME (Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers – American Society of Mechanical Engineers) effort which has developed into the premier international conference for the nuclear industry.

Born in 1935, Professor Akiyama died at age 73 on April 1, 2009. A memorial service will be held on May 19, 2009 at the Toranomom Pastoral in Tokyo, Japan.

The Thermal Hydraulic Division and its members are grateful for his technical contributions and always kind and gentle manner. A remembrance event will be held at the NURETH-13 conference in October 2009, for which Professor Akiyama had agreed to be the Honorary Co-Chair.

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