

Life Time Achievement and Profile of Professor Dr. Minoru Kawamoto

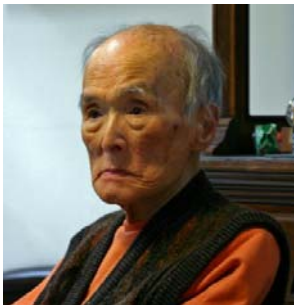
Professor Dr. Minoru Kawamoto passed away on April 18, 2006 at an age of ninety three years old. He was born in 1913 in Osaka City, Japan, moved to Kobe City when he was at a teen age, and went to The Fourth High School (currently, Kanazawa University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences). Student Minoru Kawamoto thereafter went to Kyoto University to major in mechanical engineering and was graduated with the highest distinction in 1936. He was granted an honor to deliver the speech, responding to then President Konishi of Kyoto University, on behalf of all graduates, at an annual all university commencement.



**Professor Dr. Minoru Kawamoto
at his Room in Kyoto University
(March 9, 1953)**

Immediately thereafter, Graduate Minoru Kawamoto became faculty of engineering, and later earned his Doctor's degree from Kyoto University. Professor Dr. Kawamoto led research and education at Mechanical Engineering Department, taught courses such as strength of materials, materials testing, machine design, mechanical structure, and machine elements, and mentored numerous mechanical engineering students, including two Penn State Engineering Mechanics associates, Dr. Toshinobu Shibata, Research Assistant at Penn State (1961-62) and Professor Emeritus of Kyoto University, and Dr. Hiroshi Honda, '76g and Penn State Distinguished Alumnus (1998).

Dr. Kawamoto authored and coauthored approximately 300 technical papers on strength and fatigue of materials, in addition to books and articles, occupied important positions at JSME, such as Chair of Kansai Region and chairs of various research and executive committees, and became Honorary Member of JSME in 1982. He also presented papers on fatigue at ASME and other conferences, where he became associated with late Dr. Joseph Marin, then head of Penn State Engineering Mechanics Department, in around 1955.



**Professor Dr. Minoru
Kawamoto at his home
(November, 2005)**

Dr. Kawamoto co-founded The Society of Materials Science, Japan (SMSJ), headquartered in Kyoto City, on May 31, 1952, and later became the President of SMSJ, which is a counterpart of ASTM, headquartered in Philadelphia. He also was a member of Committee E9 on Fatigue at ASTM. Dr. Kawamoto represented Kyoto University for an overseas mission of Science Council of Japan, and received the National Recognition of the Second Order of the Sacred Treasure in 1985, among many other academic honors. On June 18, 1997, Professor Dr. Kawamoto delivered the keynote speech at Centennial Celebration Ceremony of All Mechanical Engineering derived Departments at Kyoto University.

Professor Dr. Minoru Kawamoto and his family loved gardening, and he is survived by his wife Ritsu and his son Takashi in Sakyo-ku, Kyoto City.

(Website: <http://www.kawamoto-lab.jp/~patio/>)

H. H.