

Preface

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Professor Hirohisa Noguchi (1959–2008)

This special issue of “Computational Mechanics” is dedicated to the memory of Professor Hirohisa Noguchi (1959–2008), Keio University, Japan, who passed away two years ago. The editors of this special issue, Prof. Terada, Tohoku University and myself, are grateful to be able to pay tributes to the late Prof. Noguchi. The authors of this memorial issue were his close friends and colleagues and are proud of their publications dedicated to the deceased. It’s nice for us to remember the great achievements and personality of our best friend.

Prof. Hirohisa Noguchi was born on 10th September, 1959, in Osaka and graduated from Department of Aeronautics, the University of Tokyo, 1982, to start his professional career at Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc. He moved then, after receiving his Ph.D. in Tokyo, to Keio University in Yokohama, 1994. He was promoted there to a full Professor in 2002. His research activity was not limited

to nonlinear solid and structural mechanics, shell stability, sensitivity analysis in optimization, mesh-free methods and solid-fluid interaction, but rather widely ranged from continuum mechanics to large-scale computing in engineering sciences. The readers certainly realize his interests in the multilateral topics treated in this special issue. He has published several best-sellers on nonlinear finite element analysis and almost 100 reviewed papers, which are often cited by others. He received all kinds of prizes and awards for his scientific activity and organizational contribution to computational mechanics. Among them, there were, for instance, Washizu Medal (ICCES 2002), Kawai Medal (JSCES 2006) and best-paper awards. He was a leading and respected scientist in Japanese academic organizations (JSCES, JSME and JANCAE) of computational mechanics and sciences. In fact, he organized a number of international conferences and domestic meetings.

I am afraid he had not enough time for himself. A medical examination unfortunately found a cancer of stomach in the highly talented and attractive person. It was in October 2007. He was always struggling with the fatal disease and promised us with a smile to come back from the clinic. To our regret, however, it did not happen and he ended his lifetime of 48 years on 22nd August, 2008.

“Hiro” was Prof. Noguchi’s nickname in his close community. There is no substitute for Hiro’s open mind and communication skill to frankly talk with anyone across all generations. As an outstanding engineering teacher, he always encouraged and inspired the next generation. No one felt bored in a conversation with him. We really regret the loss of Hiro being an important anchor person who represented the Japanese community in computational mechanics internationally.

Hiro’s own word concludes the preface; “get excited to push forward computational mechanics!”

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