

In Memoriam: Professor Akira Kawai (1926–2010)

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Professor Akira Kawai, an Honorary Member of the Japanese Society of Fisheries Science and a former Professor of Kinki University, passed away on 9 January 2010. He was 84 years old.

Professor Kawai was born on 19 August 1926 in Fukui Prefecture. He graduated from the Department of Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, Kyoto University, in March 1950. Just after graduation, he became a Research Associate at Kyoto University. In January 1958, he was promoted to Associate Professor at Kyoto University. In April 1982, he transferred to Kinki University as a Professor. He established and managed a new laboratory named Environmental Science for Aquaculture (*Suizoku Kankyogaku*) in the Department of Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, Kinki University. After holding several significant university positions, including Head of the Department of Fisheries and Secretary-General of the Fisheries Science Course in the Graduate School of Agriculture, he retired from Kinki University in March 1997.

Professor Kawai studied the fields of aquatic environmental science extensively. When he started a new

laboratory in Kinki University, he frequently discussed the idea with the late Professor Yukihiro Hata, who was his younger sister's husband and a Professor at Kochi University at that time. Thus, the laboratories at both Kinki and Kochi Universities have the same name. When Professor Kawai had to translate *Suizoku Kankyogaku* into English, the phrase he used was "Environmental Science for Aquaculture." We still use this phrase to explain the scope of our laboratory in English. Among his various fields of research, "mechanism of the decrease in dissolved oxygen of bottom water in coastal zones, especially fish-farming areas" and "microbiological-chemical research on the flow of nitrogen in coastal areas" are excellent and have contributed to the growth of this field in fisheries science. In 1995, he received the Japanese Society of Fisheries Science Award of Merit in the field of "Environmental Science for Aquaculture."

Professor Kawai also contributed to the Japanese Society of Fisheries Science extensively, serving as a Member of the Board of Directors. He also served tirelessly on various committees essential to the running of the affairs of the Society. He was the first Chairperson of the Environmental Conservation Committee of the Society. In addition, he served the Kinki Region, including Shiga and Osaka Prefectures, as a member of many advisory committees focusing on environmental conservation. His social contributions as a scientist were invaluable.

Professor Kawai educated and inspired many young people with his profound knowledge, noble-mindedness, and warm personality. Fortunately, he stays close to all of us, in our fond memories of a great scientist and true human being.

Mitsuru Eguchi
Professor, Kinki University