

Warm Felicitations to Professor Dr. Koh Sakamoto

Professor Emeritus of Kanazawa University, Japan on his life time achievements in the field of Nuclear and Radioanalytical Chemistry. Born in Koch Pref. on Oct. 25, 1934, Prof. Koh Sakamoto did his masters from Osaka University in 1960 majoring in Radiochemistry. He did his Ph.D. from Osaka University, Japan in 1967 and postdoctoral studies from University of Arkansas, USA in 1969. He worked at Radiation Center of Osaka Prefecture from 1960 to 1964 as Research Associate studying nuclear reactions and decay schemes. He remained Research Associate at Institute for Nuclear Study, University of Tokyo from 1964 to 1972 studying cosmic-ray muon-induced nuclear reaction on ^{27}Al in earth's crust. He joined Kanazawa University in 1972 as Associate Professor and carried out studies on nuclear reactions using cyclotron, electron linear accelerator and electron synchrotron. He headed the Department of Radiochemistry from 1981 till 2000, during the same period he did his lifetime achievement work on photonuclear reactions. This work got national and international recognition and he was awarded Kimura Prize, in the honor of Professor Kenjiro Kimura (1896 – 1988) who was the founder of nuclear and radiochemistry in Japan, from the Japan Society of Nuclear and Radiochemical Sciences in October 2009. He was appointed as founding Director Kanazawa Kids' Science Center in 2001 and accomplished the task in 2006. We wish him more success in the future. He has very kindly contributed an invited paper in the current issue of The Nucleus.

We are pleased to honor the desire of Professor Koh Sakamoto in publishing a tribute paid by him to Late Professor Kenjiro Kimura in the current issue.

Editor-in-Chief

In Memory of Late Prof. Kenjiro Kimura

Prof. K. Kimura was born in Utsunomiya City, Japan in 1898 when radioactivity (uranium ray) was discovered by H. Becquerel in Paris. He started his academic career with chemical analysis of radioactive minerals in the Imperial University of Tokyo in 1920. This work had extended to the analyses of naturally occurring radionuclides, especially of U, Ra and Rn in rocks, minerals, sediments and mineral spring waters not only in Japan but also in the other areas of the north-east Asia for more than 30 years. In the meantime, he stayed in the Copenhagen Institute of Theoretical Physics to study radiochemistry under Nobel Laureates Profs. N. Bohr and G. Hevesy during 1925 to 1927, and got to know a prominent Japanese physicist Y. Nishina and studied X-ray spectroscopy together there. When Dr. Nishina constructed the 1st. Japanese cyclotron (the second in the world) in 1937, Prof. Kimura and his coworkers started their joint works on artificial radioactivities produced by fast neutrons from the cyclotron. Their major achievements among others were the discoveries of a new uranium isotope, U-237, the first $(4n+1)$ series, and the symmetric fission of ^{238}U during 1939-1940. His group analyzed the debris fell in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 in collaboration with the nation-wide chemists in Japan, and developed the basis of radiochemistry research in this country. They also analyzed the radioactive ash fell on the fisherman boat, the Dai-go Fukuryu-maru, near by Bikini atoll in the south Pacific, and identified the hydrogen bomb to be 3F type in 1954. After his retirement from the Tokyo University, he served as the presidents of Tokyo Women's University and of the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute.

Prof. Koh Sakamoto