

# 触媒懇談会ニュース

触媒学会シニア懇談会

## 故田部先生を偲んで

大阪府立大学大学院 元日本触媒常務取締役 植島陸男

平成 30 年 4 月 24 日早朝、北海道大学名誉教授 田部浩三先生が逝去（満 91 歳）されたとの訃報を服部英先生から頂き、驚きとともに深い悲しみに陥りました。昨年 10 月先生を訪ねたときは、再会をたいへん喜んでいただき、歓談後に先生ご最良の和食堂で昼食をしたのが最後の会合になろうとは、未だ信じられない思いです。

思えば田部先生は固体触媒とくに酸塩基触媒の分野で、固体表面の酸・塩基性質が触媒反応に及ぼす要因を徹底的に研究され、1989 年には酸塩基触媒国際会議 (International Symposium on Acid - Base Catalysis) をご自身自から基金を提供し立ち上げられ、今では 4 年に一度国内あるいは海外で開催される重要な国際会議の一つに位置づけられており、固体酸塩基触媒を世界にまで広められた偉大な学者です。葬儀に際し先生のご逝去を悼み国内外の多くの著名な触媒研究者から弔電があったこともその証です。

先生は自らの研究業績で紫綬褒章・日本化学会賞・触媒学会学会賞ほか種々受賞しておられますが、そのことを自慢されるこ

とは全くなく、若い研究者には同じ目線で接していただける親近感の湧く先生でした。そして触媒研究は、それがどれだけ世の中に良い結果をもたらすかを常に考えて進めなさい、また分からないことがあれば共に考えましようと思わせてくださる人間味あふれた方で、世界レベルで学界は言うに及ばず産業界の多くの方々とも今もなお親しく交流を重ねておられ、国内外の触媒研究の発展に大きく貢献された世界に誇る田部先生だと確信しております。

今年も先生がいつも楽しみにされておられました有志の会「田部ゼミ」での勉強会の開催をご相談しようとしておりました折、今となっては叶わぬこととなりました。触媒研究以外に人生論、趣味、時の話題論議など時を忘れての熱いお話がもう伺えないと思うと残念でなりません。先生からご教示いただきました数々の教訓を生かして進んでまいります。田部先生ありがとうございました。どうか安らかにお眠りください。

平成 30 年 5 月

### **Memorial writing by Dr. Zhongmin LIU**

Profoundly saddened to hear the sad news of the passing away of Professor Kozo Tanabe, I, in the name of Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics, CAS, and in my own name, express my deepest condolences.

Prof. Tanabe was a respected and an excellent world-class scientist, and he was the pioneer in the field of acids and bases catalysis. To date, the catalytic properties of solid acids and bases which was came up by Prof. Tanabe is still impacting the development of the catalysis science. Prof. Tanabe was a good friend of Chinese

people. He cared and helped us a lot in both of scientific research and graduate students' education in the past decades. The death of Professor Kozo Tanabe is a great loss to the field of catalytic science and technology. We are also very sad to lose a close and sincere friend. He will be sadly missed.

Zhongmin LIU

Director of Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics & Qingdao Institute of Bioenergy and Bioprocess Technology

### **Memorial Writing by Prof. Feng-Shu XIAO and Prof. Xiaoming ZHENG**

We were profoundly saddened by the sad news that Tanabe-sensei had passed away. Please accept our deepest condolences. We had been international students in Hokkaido University in the late of 1980s and in the beginning of this century Tanabe-sensei had visited Catalysis Institute of Zhejiang University. He was always nice and inspiring to us and he was also our great teacher, advisor and yet good friend in

more than three decades. He brought to us a lot of precious experiences and good memories both in Japan and China. Tanabe-sensei will forever live in our hearts.

Feng-Shou XIAO, Professor in Catalysis Institute of Zhejiang University  
Xiaoming ZHENG, Professor in Catalysis Institute of Zhejiang University

### **Memorial writing by Dr. Bo-Qing Xu**

I was profoundly saddened yesterday by the sad news of the passing of Tanabe-sensei. Please accept my deepest condolences.

Tanabe-sensei had been my beloved mentor even before I became one of his international students in January 1986. He was always nice and inspiring to me, remained to be my great teacher, advisor and yet good friend in more than three decades. He brought to me a lot of precious experiences and good memories, in Japan, China and Europe, which I may never have without him. I was thinking by the day before yesterday of visiting him in Sapporo after my attending the TOCAT8 conference (in Yokohama) in this coming

August. Many pictures and activities of Tanabe-sensei are emerging in my eyes and brain. I hope I could fly to Sapporo to pay him my last respects but to obtain a Japanese visa would take as long as ten days in Beijing.

It has been a great treasure for me to be one of his many international students. I learnt a lot from Tanabe-sensei and his team at Hokkaido University for teaching students and doing scientific research. His many words will continue to inspire me throughout my own life. Tanabe-sensei will forever live in my heart.

Bo-Qing Xu (徐柏庆)

### **Memorial writing by Dr. Min Hon Rei (雷 敏宏)**

Since January with heavy snow in Sapporo, I have been worry about health situation of my respected dear Professor Tanabe and wrote a letter to ask his situation, then in the early March I added some more words again when spring finally came but I never get around to go to post office to send out, now I lost the opportunity forever and will keep the mail for myself to cherish the 40 years of friendship and the contribution Prof. Tanabe bestows to me and to us in the

catalytic society of Taiwan. We, my colleague in Taiwan, my students and myself, always remember his kindness, profound knowledge in catalysis, particularly in the solid acid, his consideration and generosity to others. My memory goes back to 1980 in the first TOCAT Conference in Tokyo where and when I first met him and was absorbed immediately by his kindness and consideration. After the Confidence, I invited him, Prof Tamaru and Prof

Echigoya to visit Taiwan; Prof. Tamaru could not come while Prof. Tanabe and Prof. Echigoya quickly agree to come. I was more than happy to be able to invite him over to Taiwan; while in Taiwan, Prof Tanabe and I agreed to have a joint workshop in Catalysis in Peitou next year. An acorn is thus planted then and this started the long journey of long cooperation history between the two countries and hundreds of catalysisists in Japan and in Taiwan. Last January in Kyoto for the 18<sup>th</sup> Joint workshop on catalysis, I was very happy and very thrill to see the happy hours of discussion and togetherness by the young catalysisists of

the two countries and wished Prof Tanabe could have been there to witness the growing of the giant oak tree we planted almost 40 years ago. As Prof Tanabe has walked to his destination, I wish all the catalysisists in the two countries could continuously work together and build the sincere genuine friendship for many more 40 years to come.

Prof. Tanabe will always live in my heart and in our colleague in Taiwan.

Min Hon Rei (雷 敏宏)

### **Memorial writing by Dr. Chung-Yuan Mou**

We learned the unfortunate news of Professor Kozo Tanabe leaving us. On behalf of the Taiwan Catalysis community, I would like to express our sincere gratitude and condolence to Prof. Tanabe's family and Japanese colleagues.

Professor Tanabe was a great scientist and a kind mentor to all of us. His decease surely is a great loss of the catalysis communities. We shall remember his generosity, friendship, and big heart forever. Through his efforts of promoting the Japan-Taiwan catalysis exchange

over four decades ago, we now have a treasured relation between the catalysis communities of Taiwan and Japan. With deepest condolence, we wish you to convey our sincere gratitude to Professor Tanabe's contribution for the promotion of catalysis science.

With our deep appreciation and condolence,

Chung-Yuan Mou



President, Catalysis Society of  
Taiwan  
Professor, Department of Chemistry,  
National Taiwan University

### **Memorial writing by Ben-Zu Wan**

Sorry to know the pass-away of Professor Tanabe. I am Ben-Zu Wan of National Taiwan University. Thank you for taking care of him many years. My first time to meet Professor Tanabe was in Texas A&M University in College Station of Texas. At that time I was a graduate student for Ph.D. degree in Department of Chemical Engineering under guidance of Professor Anthony. It was a small local conference. I presented my research work of characterization of catalysis properties of zirconium phosphate in a poster session held in late evening. Professor Tanabe accompanied by Professor Lunsford (my previous advisor in chemistry department) appeared in front of me. It was apparent to me that this Lunsford's Japanese friend had drunk a lot, but he was able to maintain a clear mind to provide very good advices. It was interesting because you know, Lunsford did not drink, neither initiated talks. I remember one of advices from Professor Tanabe was that zirconium phosphate was a useful acid type catalyst for hydration of ethylene to produce ethanol in industry. I did not realize that the information was very important to me until two years later, I had an interview for a teaching position in Department of Chemical Engineering of National Taiwan University. The tough scholar, Professor

Rei, was one of interviewers and asked "Can your catalyst be useful and applied in industry?" Tanabe's words started to hit my head "Sure, a Japanese Prof. Tanabe told me the industrial application of zirconium phosphate in ethanol production." I did not know they were good friends. Anyway, it was the end of Prof. Rei's questions. I got the position. After serving for thirty-one and half years, I was retired three months ago. I met Professor Tanabe many times either in our (Japan and Taiwan) bilateral meetings or in some international meetings in my professorship. My mind was always occupied by the up-current researches. When everything almost passes away, it is still the matter of the first time remaining the most fresh.

Thank you Professor Tanabe.

Ben-Zu Wan

Retired Professor, National Taiwan University, Taiwan.

Secretary in General of Catalysis Society of Taiwan.