

In memory of  
**Prof. Akio Kameoka**

I still feel deeply about the first time I was fortunate to meet Prof. Akio Kameoka in Portland on the occasion of the PICMET Conference in 1997. At this conference – being the world’s largest professional convention in the field of “Management of Technology” (MOT) – his visionary paper on the “Techno-producer” sparked vivid interest and wide acceptance by the audience. It was this paper that also laid the groundwork for a most fruitful collaboration between JAIST and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) combining the concept of the “Techno-producer” with the concept of “Enterprise Sciences”. Over the years, this collaboration intensified and included joint research, joint teaching assignments and joint publications.

Special highlights of this collaboration were the co-supervision of an ETH dissertation on “Roadmapping” by Prof. Kameoka, the foundation of the “Global Advanced Technologies Innovation Consortium” (GATIC) together with Prof. Mike Radnor from the Northwestern University (USA), the joint publication of a MOT textbook in Japanese, the joint organization of yearly GATIC Conferences, the foundation of the organization “GATIC Japan” together with colleagues from JAIST and Ritsumeikan University and finally the joint teaching assignment in the context of the MOT Degree Program offered by JAIST since 2003.

This highly rewarding collaboration was based on Prof. Kameoka’s most conscientious academic groundwork which he built up at JAIST and his restless dedication to promote MOT and since recent years “Service Sciences” in Japan and within the global professional community. Therefore no wonder that mentioning “Mr. MOT” in official addresses and among colleagues unquestionably referred to Prof. Kameoka. And it is no question also that Prof. Kameoka’s exemplary worldwide personal engagement in the field of MOT has contributed largely to have JAIST gain a global awareness and reputation.

Prof. Kameoka’s highly respected academic and industry-related competence also was the background for close relationships with governmental institutions such as MEXT, METI, NEDO, foreign universities in Thailand, Singapore and China and a large number of renowned companies such as Toshiba, where he spent many years in executive positions prior to joining JAIST, Sony, Panasonic, NEC, IBM, Mitsubishi and many others. Especially the relationship with the mentioned governmental institutions resulted in a generous and dedicated support of numerous GATIC and other educational events.

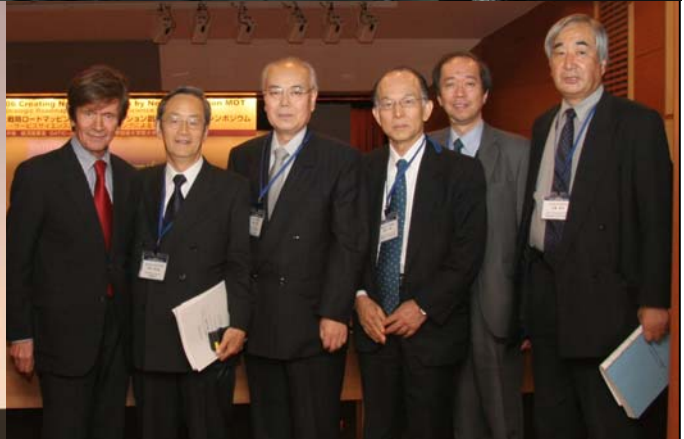
In addition to being an outstanding academic and professional it is Prof. Kameoka’s amiable personality which impressed anyone who was in close contact. Despite his extraordinary workload – during recent years he even assumed the honor and responsibility of the vice-presidency of JAIST - he never missed to be concerned about other people’s well being and took any conceivable initiative to help where help was needed.

With Prof. Kameoka, a great personality, a creative academic, a convincing visionary for Japan’s technology and innovation leadership, a tireless promoter of the global MOT initiative, and above all, a close friend has left us forever. Dear Akio, I owe you so much. Thank you. I shall miss you and shall keep in my mind an everlasting memory.



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