

吉田敏臣先生の逝去を偲んで

吉田敏臣先生が御逝去されました。謹んでご冥福をお祈りします。日本生物工学会第12代会長を務められた吉田先生は生物化学工学、特に培養工学の分野で常に先導的立場で研究を推進されました。また、吉田先生は、生物プロセスのシミュレーション技術に関する研究を手掛け、人工知能的手法の応用について生物化学工学分野における先駆的研究を修め、現在のバイオテクノロジーの情報科学研究発展の礎となりました。そういった専門性をもって常に日本生物工学会において势力的に学会活動を行うとともに、評議員、副会長、会長として同学会の発展につくされました。特に東南アジアを中心とする世界における生物工学分野の教育、研究の推進ならびに国際交流の発展に大きく寄与されました。吉田先生が設立に尽力された生物工学アジア若手賞は現在にいたっても数多くのアジアの若手研究者の励みになっています。病床につかれてからもずっと学会創立100周年事業のことを気かけられ、記念出版の原稿や歴代会長インタビューの投稿等をしていただきました。本当にありがたかったです。吉田先生はお酒をこよなく愛される先生であり、幾度となくご相伴にあずかったことも思い出されます。どうか安らかにお休みいただくようお願い申し上げます。

(大阪大学大学院工学研究科生物工学専攻・教授/日本生物工学会第23代会長 福崎英一郎)

吉田敏臣先生にはこれまでいろいろとお世話になりましたが、特に最初の大阪大学大学院工学研究科発酵工学専攻博士課程の研究につきましては多大なご支援をいただきました。私は修士課程までは化学工学を専攻していましたので、微生物の取り扱いが不得手で、当初2年間の流加培養によるストレプトマイシン生産の研究はほとんど頓挫してしまいました。その後苦心の末、グルタミン酸発酵にきりかえることでようやく博士課程の研究を終了したのです。先生の貴重なご指導・ご支援がなければ博士課程の研究は失敗に終わってもおかしくない状況でした。おかげさまで統計的アプローチがグルタミン酸発酵プロセスのシミュレーション、最適化に有効であることを示せたのです。この研究の方向性は、以後の私の研究、すなわちファジィ制御やエキスパートシステムの応用に受け継いでいきました。さらに先生が生物工学国際交流センターにご在職中も、研究を引き続きご支援いただき、外国人研究者との交流や、東南アジアでの国際交流業務など、多くの貴重な経験をさせていただきました。先生が折に触れて言われていた“Simple is best”は、結局研究はsimpleにまとまるべきものであると解釈し、今でも大いに共感を覚えます。

最後に吉田先生のご冥福を心よりお祈り申し上げます。

(京都工芸繊維大学名誉教授 岸本通雅)



There are only a few special people in our lives who change our lifepath and define who we will become. Looking back at our past, we can clearly see them. Professor Yoshida was such a person to me and to his many students who feel the way I do. Yoshida-Sensei, thank you, without you guidance our lives would have been different, and perhaps less joyous.

I first met Professor Yoshida on a cloudy February day in 1987, when he introduced me to the International Center of Biotechnology, Osaka University (ICBiotech). He was my Ph.D. and PostDoc advisor until 1992. We stayed in touch for nearly three decades afterwards. Yoshida-sensei possessed the skill of guiding us gently, yet firmly, providing us with all the internal and external resources available to him. He was an enthusiastic supporter of radically new ideas, including expert systems, neural nets, and fuzzy sets, many years before the current AI wave. His questions, encouragement, and directions were vital to us. In these old days, we used to work on Saturday until late. I remember him carefully looking at my phenylalanine production bioreactor data, saying “Konstantin-san, this looks fine, keep going, but consider trying this…” Evening time, he would take us to dinner and talk to us in his modest Yoshida-sensei way about work, life and history. I vividly remember these special occasions and treasure them dearly as very special moments. Yoshida-sensei had a holistic approach to work and life outside ICBiotech. He often invited us to his home, where he and Mrs. Sonoko Yoshida were such wonderful hosts.

After my time at ICBiotech, Yoshida-sensei continued his successful career in biotech for many years. He not only supported his students, but worked with the industry and government, enabling his vast experience in the biotechnology field to bring value to all. It is a great honor to know him, learn from him, and work with him. On behalf of his many students, I would like to say: Thank you, Yoshida-sensei, we miss you, we love you, and we will remain eternally grateful to you!

(Dr. Konstantin Konstantinov, Ph.D.
Chief Technology Officer (CTO), Ring Therapeutics, USA)

When I had just entered the ICBiotech, Prof. Toshiomi Yoshida told me to study hard both the fundamental knowledge and basic techniques of biotechnology so as to have an exponential growth in my later studies. The most impressive word from Sensei was “Think for yourself!” when I asked “Sensei, how should I solve this research problem?” at the laboratory seminar during 1988-1992. I was also lucky to work in Asian Federation of Biotechnology (AFOB) as one of the key members under the leadership of Yoshida sensei who was the 1st President of AFOB (2008-2012). I will continuously follow Sensei’s footstep and make my contribution to the academic and social societies as well as international friendship, especially between China and Japan. I am very grateful to Yoshida sensei for teaching and supporting me so enormously. Sensei is always living in my mind!

(Professor Jian-Jiang Zhong (鐘建江)
University Distinguished Professor, School of Life Sciences & Biotechnology,
Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China)



日本生物工学会創立90周年記念大会で挨拶をされたときの写真
(2012年)



日本生物工学会大会懇親会でご挨拶されたときの写真
(2016年)

It is my great honor to write the memorial tribute for the late Prof. Emeritus Toshiomi Yoshida who was my main advisor when I was a Master and Ph.D. student at the Department of Biotechnology (Former name: Fermentation Technology), Faculty of Engineering, Osaka University. Prof. Yoshida was so humble but strict and precise teacher who never compromised on the quality of work. He loves to listen to the people and give a helpful suggestion. As a Director of the International Center for Biotechnology, Prof. Yoshida has continuously delivered very remarkable works in academia and collaborations not only for Japan but also globally (especially countries in ASEAN and Asia). He was a key person who initiated many projects to promote and level up the biotechnology research activities in developing countries. Although the recent loss of Prof. Yoshida would bring great sadness to the students and friends who love him, but his mission to promote the advancement in Biotechnology through collaboration is yet to be continued.

With deep respect and sincere gratitude to my most beloved Sensei.

(Assistant Professor Dr. Somchai Chauvatcharin

Department of Biotechnology, Faculty of Science, Mahidol University, Thailand)



大阪大学生物工学国際交流センターの吉田先生主催の研究室旅行。右端：吉田先生，2列目右から3番目：University of Minnesota, Professor Wei Shou Hu 先生（当時大阪大学客員教授），後列右から2番目：Dr. Somchai Chauvatcharin 先生（当時大学院生），左から6番目：Professor Jian-Jiang Zhong（鐘建江）先生（当時大学院生），左から4番目：奥様（園子様）（1991年）。



吉田先生がタイ国シリントン王女よりマヒドン大学名誉理学博士学位を授与された際の写真（2005年）