

Opening Address-Kawagoe Memorial Symposium

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Ladies and Gentlemen :

At the beginning of Kawagoe Memorial Symposium, I would like to make a few remarks. It is especially meaningful to hold a session commemorating the late Dr. Kawagoe, who passed away in 1994, at the occasion of this 13th meeting of the UJNR Panel on Fire Research and Safety under the collaboration of US and Japanese fire research experts.

As you know, Dr. Kawagoe devoted his life to research and international cooperation in fire and building technology. On behalf of the Japanese delegates to this UJNR meeting, it is my pleasure to introduce briefly Dr. Kawagoe's achievements in building research especially in fire research and his energetic international cooperative work.

Dr. Kawagoe started his research career at Building Research Institute, Ministry of Construction, in 1946 at the time of its establishment. He served BRI's Director General from 1969 to 1973, and accepted professorship at the Science University of Tokyo in 1973. Throughout his life, Dr. Kawagoe promoted various activities for research, education and administration in building technology, but the fire research can be said as one of his most representative and outstanding achievements.

As time is limited, it is not possible to introduce all his accomplishment. However, his work can not be satisfactorily introduced without talking about his research on post-flashover fires in fire resistive buildings. This research was started during the early days of his research life and BRI itself. Through this research, he pioneered the development of scientific prediction methods for fire phenomena, and clarified that such buildings can have some unique fire problems different from those common for wooden buildings with which Japanese fire experts already had been familiar before the world war.

He also promoted research on smoke movement, modeling of preflashover compartment fires and risk analysis even since most of researchers or administrators were not yet aware of the importance of these subjects for fire safety. In all areas his research was successful. Some fields of fire research in which Japanese

fire experts are now working actively are highly evaluated in the world, but it is not too much to say that most of these were pioneered by Dr. Kawagoe's early works.

Dr. Kawagoe especially insisted on the necessity of establishing an engineering system for fire safety design and he himself led the Ministry of Construction's project to develop comprehensive fire safety design methods for buildings in 1980's. This is now considered as the basis for the performance-based fire safety design of buildings in Japan. Result of this project is now widely applied for ensuring safety of building designs for cases when special certification is required due to the Article 38 of the Building Standards Law (and has also been introduced to the foreign countries as well.)

Besides these research activities, Dr. Kawagoe was also involved actively in international cooperative projects such as CIB, ISO and UJNR from their early stages. He was active and offered Japanese leadership in the establishment of International Association for Fire Safety Society (IAFSS) and served as its Vice President for 6 years from its establishment in 1985. At the Second International Symposium on Fire Safety Science held in Tokyo in 1988, the first international symposium on fire safety science after the establishment of IAFSS, he was awarded the Emmons Lectureship, the highest honor of the IAFSS, and in 1994, the Kawagoe Prize was established by IAFSS to honor lifetime contribution of international fire experts to fire safety science and practice. These certainly tell us about his highly admired personality as well as his excellent achievements.

He always gave kind advice to his young colleague and students, and encouraged them to enrich themselves through research and enjoy their research. He was very pleased to back up them. I myself was given his precious advice in many ways. He often sent me valuable foreign documents, and I learnt much about research in my own field from such documents. Dr. Kawagoe was really a challenging researcher. As a former Director-General of BRI, a governmental institute, he often pointed out and was anxious about

conflict between the demands of governmental policy and pure research. He himself often offered positive and stimulating suggestions for the future of BRI.

We have followed his trail in fire research based on his achievement in research as well as with help of in-

ternational cooperation. We wish all involved in fire research to understand his work and his wish to enhance fire safety with hand in hand. Thank you very much.