A TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR MOTOFUSA MURAYAMA

As most members of the Pan-Pacific Business Association (PPBA) already know, we lost our great friend, esteemed professional colleague and mentor to many young scholars, Dr. Motofusa Murayama of Chiba National University, Japan. Moto and I have worked together for more than 34 years. He was one of a handful of the charter members of PPBA who have not missed any PPC in 32 years, plus two Japan-US Business Conferences in 1981 and 1983. Moto was a Fellow of PPBA and received the Distinguished Global Leadership Award, the highest recognition that PPBA can bestow on a scholar who has made a global scholarship impact. Thus, Dr. Murayama has been the ambassador and face of PPBA ever since its inception.

The Pan-Pacific Conference was Moto's passion. He always played major roles in the conference, as a speaker, special panel presenter, session chair, Chair of the Conference Organizing Committee twice (Chiba in 1996 and Sakai City, Osaka in 2014). When he passed away at the Hanoi Conference on June 1, 2015, he was with two of his beloved daughters (Meiko and Nina) and all of his closest professional colleagues. He talked, laughed, and danced with friends, just like his usual cheerful self. While we are stunned and heart broken by his sudden departure from his family and friends, we also cherish his illustrious life as a truly distinguished global scholar, but much more as our great friend.

Moto was born on June 26, 1934 and received his B. A. degree in Business Administration from Chuo University in Tokyo, his M. B. A. from Seton Hall University, USA, and his Ph. D. from Chuo University. He worked as the Manager of Management Advisory Services at Price Waterhouse offices in New York, Los Angeles, and Tokyo before becoming a faculty member at Sophia University and Chuo University during 1966-1970. He became a Professor at Chiba National University in 1970 and served in many important scholarly and research positions until the regulatory retirement in 2000. During 2001-2008, Professor Murayama served as Professor and Distinguished Scholar at Chukyo University in Nagoya. He was invited as a Distinguished Visiting Professor in The Albers School of Business and Economics, Seattle University during 2008-2011. Moto has visited many foreign universities as a Distinguished Visiting Scholar over the years: USA - San Francisco University, New
York University, Georgia State University, and University of Washington; Asia - University of Malaya, University of Indonesia, De Lasalle University of the Philippines, Beijing Industrial University, and Dongseo University in Korea; Europe - Seinojoki University, Finland; and many others.

Professor Murayama’s expertise has been characterized by both its depth and width. He initiated and was involved in numerous research and other projects. His research work has been published in many journals and he has published 55 books. Some of his book titles indicate his expertise: Glo-cal “Ba” Management, Principles of Corporate Culture, International Management, Business Anthropology, Glocal Management Strategy, Strategy and Philosophy, International Business, Hospitality Business, Regional Development with Spiritual Harmony, Management and Religion, Japanese Management, and many others. His recent research papers deal with the relationship between the Japanese Kabuki culture and management, such as Wary Kabuki: Wounded Glory – Lessons from Toyota Recall Issues in America; Kabuki and Global Education; Zen and Global Business; and lastly, New Paradigm: Business Anthropology and Glocal Management. Moto was a distinguished global scholar who contributed in many learned societies including as the founding member and President of AIMCATS (Academy of International Management, Cultures, and Transdisciplinary Studies), Japanese Academy of Management, Academy of International Business, and many others. He served in various committees set up by the United Nations, the Japanese central and local governments, and NGOs to provide leadership and advice in his expertise areas.

While Moto was a cosmopolitan Renaissance man, he was a passionate family man. His love of his family was absolute. He met his life-long partner M. K. while they were both studying at Columbia University in New York. M. K. studied English at the University of California Berkeley, UCLA (where she received her BA degree), and Columbia. After marrying Moto, M. K. came to Japan and taught English and Communication at Tokyo International University and Reitaku University. She wrote a book, “Useful Phrases in English” and co-authored “Innovation of Speaking American English” with Moto. M. K. and Moto conducted numerous research and service projects together, including local community culture festivals, convention center management, international airport management and the like. M. K. has participated in most of the Pan-Pacific Conferences with Moto over the years as well.

Moto and M. K. have four children (son Motomasa and daughters Meiko, Mimi, and Nina) and six grandchildren. Growing up in such a scholarly environment, their children are all involved in education (Masa as a professor at Tokiwa University in Japan, Meiko as a professor at University of Reading in UK, Mimi is finishing her graduate degree to become a teacher in San Francisco, and Nina as a professor at Tamagawa University in Japan). When I had an opportunity to visit the beautiful country home of the Murayamas about 20 years ago, I was very impressed to see a huge library at the center of their house. It simply shows the culture and family value of Moto and M. K.

As I write this tribute, I wish so much Moto could have lived longer to be with us now. We already miss him terribly, not only his scholarly expertise but more of his optimism and love of life. His smiles and laughs were always contagious. When he laughed hard and loud, his unique laughs would make others laugh even more. When I was with Moto in Chiba Prefecture in 1995 to plan for the 1996 PPC, we were trying to come up with a good theme for the Chiba Conference. Moto said we could not possibly come up with a good theme without some good sake to help us think creatively. He ordered some good hot sake, we drank, laughed and sure enough came up with an excellent theme. How we miss Moto! When Meiko and Nina came back to Narita with their dad from Hanoi on June 3, Nina told me that “He seemed truly blessed, we saw the most beautiful sunset greeting him at the airport.”

Sang M. Lee, June 25, 2015