

Tamano-san,

From one of the Fusion Program Note (9/18/2015) of the Fusion Power Associates, I understand that you are collecting materials for Memorial Web-site for Dr. Tihiro Ohkawa. The following is my possible contribution to the Web-site.

My contributions to the Memorial Website for Dr. Tihiro Ohkawa are, I am afraid, mostly my private matters, since my interactions with Tihiro are rather indirect. As a foreign (Japanese) graduate student studying abroad (in US) in mid 1960s, I had very much inspired by Ohkawa-Sensei. Around that time, I read a novel by Fumiko Enji on a Japanese nuclear fusion researcher heading a large US group, that obviously re-enforced my life-long dream of fusion research. As a young leader of tokamak research team at ORNL (ISX-A and ISX-B), I had several interactions with General Atomics Fusion Group headed by Tihiro. I worked Impurity Flow Reversal joint-experiment with Keith Burrell, Jim DeBoo, et al. on ISX-A (a GA-ORNL Joint Experiment). This experiment was based on Tihiro's original idea published in the Kaku Yugo Kenkyu in 1976. I visited several times to GA during the Doublet III experimental period to review Doublet III experiments, including the JAERI-GA joint confinement experiments. I enjoyed interactions through discussions with Tihiro, and was impressed by his physics insights and inspirations. During my prolonged participation in the follow-up DIII-D experimental program (for 10 years on-site followed by another decade of commuting to San Diego), I have a few encounter with Tihiro, but more often have strong interaction with researchers who have had been mentored by Tihiro, notably Tony Taylor, Rob LaHaye, Keith Burrell, and many other GA colleagues. After my (formal) retirement, I am still visiting to GA every 2-3 month for an 'off-site' collaborator for DIII-D Experiments, I am seeing Tihiro's picture at the Visitor Center as a General Atomics Vice President beside the Doublet III device. In addition, whenever I joined Japanese reunions of my Elementary School, I met with my old school mate who talked every time about Tihiro's fond tennis playing and his genuine kindness. In conclusion, I truly adore Tihiro's full life of the truly outstanding human beings. He contributed many seminal ideas to the field of plasma physics, inspired so many students to pursue careers in fusion research, and possessed such personal grace, charm, and genuine kindness.

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