



A tribute to Professor Akio Kikuchi: An academic with a wit unmatched

Professor Dr. Akio Kikuchi, an excellent academic and a great teacher will be retiring in March, 2007 after contributing to the world of academia for about five decades. It is indeed my pleasure to pen a few lines of tribute to this impeccable academic.

Professor Kikuchi has contributed immensely to research in the field of interpersonal and cross cultural values and relationships. He has published extensively in both Japanese and English which is a rare feat among Japanese scholars specializing in psychology. Among his notable books, were: Cross-Cultural Study of Values (価値の比較社会心理学), A Handbook of Socialization (社会化の心理学ハンドブック), Psychology of Prosocial Behavior (思いやりを科学する), Psychology of Social Skills (社会的スキルの心理学), Handbook of Social Skills (Kiss-18ハンドブック) etc.

He has an array of research papers such as Japanese interpersonal values (日本人の対人関係観), Giri and Ninjo: Japanese interpersonal values (義理と人情: KG-SIVによる検討), Bureaucratic orientation of Japanese youth (青年期の官僚制指向), Cross-cultural experience in adolescence (青年の異文化体験), Construction of self-conscious emotion scale (新しい自己意識的感情尺度の開発) etc.

Professor Kikuchi is also well known in academic circles for his numerous presentations in domestic and international conferences.

Professor Kikuchi also has a reputation as an excellent teacher with a high sense of humor and wit which is his hallmark. He has supervised a large number of undergraduate and post graduate students in Fukushima University, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Touhoku University and Iwate Prefectural University. His students especially in Iwate Prefectural University have high praises for Professor Kikuchi for his excellent teaching skills and research supervision. His colleagues will always remember him for his impressive input and contributions for the development of knowledge and skills related to the study and research of interpersonal and cultural values and more importantly to the development of psychology in Japan.

Professor Kikuchi's academic legacy and wit will certainly be missed by his colleagues and students. He is certainly a great loss to Iwate Prefectural University and particularly to Faculty of Social Welfare but he has left a legacy that has inspired and motivated numerous students and colleagues including myself. We wish him well in his retirement.

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