



October 8, 2014

Mrs. Yohko Ohkawa

Dear Mrs. Ohkawa,

On behalf of the National Institute for Fusion Science I wish to express our deep sadness upon the passing of Dr. Tihiro Ohkawa. His contributions to fusion research have continuously shaped our community, our field, our research, and our thinking not only in Japan, but around the world. It is indeed difficult to underestimate his impact upon our community.

A pioneer of fusion research in Japan and in the United States, at the National Institute for Fusion Science Dr. Ohkawa served as a Member of our Research Council from 1989 and assisted this Institute's development in significant and lasting ways.

An extremely gifted scholar and administrator, Dr. Ohkawa contributed significantly in theory, experiments, and engineering. He designed and constructed the Doublet series machines from the 1970s. Among them, the D-III Doublet fusion device is truly a world-leading machine, and is still being used for experiments at General Atomics, where he worked from 1960 until retiring in 1994. The first device that he designed at General Atomics was the Multipole device. Through experiments using this device, he demonstrated the importance of the "magnetic well" concept in the toroidal configuration for plasma stability at the Second IAEA Conference in Culham, England, in 1965. Many such findings he published over the decades in the Japanese-language journal "Kakuyugo kenkyu" for Japanese researchers.

Dr. Ohkawa's achievements in research and his broad and deep contributions to the fusion field will continue to inform our research long into the future. The fusion community has lost a giant.

Sincerely,

Akio Komori  
Director-General