

I am Tomoyuki Higuchi, Director-General of The Institute of Statistical Mathematics. Before the award ceremony, I would like to briefly talk about the reasons for establishing the Akaike Memorial Lecture Award, as well as about its namesake, the late Dr. Hirotugu Akaike.

Please also refer to the materials that were handed out at the reception desk.

Dr. Akaike graduated from the University of Tokyo in 1952.

That same year, he became a researcher at The Institute of Statistical Mathematics. He was our great senior colleague.

In 1962, he became Section Head of the Second Research Section, First Research Division, then Divisional Head of the Fifth Division in 1973 and Director of Control & System Analysis in 1985, before being appointed Director-General in 1986.

Dr. Akaike served as Director-General for eight years, during which time he was also a Council Member of the Science Council of Japan beginning 1988.

In that same year, he also held the post of Chair of the Department of Statistical Science at the Graduate University for Advanced Studies.

Through these activities, Dr. Akaike contributed to the development of statistical science in Japan and the education of younger researchers and graduate students.

Following his retirement from The Institute of Statistical Mathematics and subsequent appointment as Professor Emeritus, and until the time of his passing, Dr. Akaike continued to energetically devote himself to research.

In recognition of his achievements and influence on a broad range of international and cutting-edge research fields, Dr. Akaike was bestowed with numerous prominent honors, including a Purple Ribbon Medal from the Emperor of Japan in 1989, Second Class Order of the Sacred Treasure, and Kyoto Prize from Inamori Foundation.

The Institute of Statistical Mathematics operates the *Hirotsugu Akaike Memorial Website*, which includes an outline of his career and a listing of his papers.

Please visit the site when you have the chance.

As you know, Dr. Akaike was an extraordinary outstanding seminal figure in the field of statistical science in Japan.

The Institute of Statistical Mathematics and Japan Statistical Society jointly established the Akaike Memorial Lecture Award to celebrate his enormous achievements to award a researcher who has made remarkable achievements in the field of statistical science.

By presenting the Akaike Memorial Lecture, we hope to encourage the development of our younger international colleagues and contribute to the development of statistical science, which were Dr. Akaike's wishes while he was alive.

This award and the presentation of the Akaike Memorial Lecture are made possible through a donation from Dr. Akaike's Kyoto Prize honorarium to The Institute of Statistical Mathematics in order to support exploratory research into statistical science.

I am extremely pleased to present the inaugural Akaike Memorial Lecture Award to Professor Chien-Fu Jeff Wu of the Georgia Institute of Technology.

We sincerely hope that this award will serve as a stimulus to many researchers and contribute to the further development of statistical science.