



Dr. ZYOITI SUETUNA

1898-1970

ZYOITI SUETUNA, 1898-1970

By KAMEO MATUSITA

Professor Zyoiti Suetuna, Director of the Institute of Statistical Mathematics, died on August 6, 1970.

Dr. Suetuna held the office of director of the Institute from May 1947 to April 1948 and from April 1958 to March 1959 concurrently with professorship at Tokyo University, and exclusively from the end of March 1959 to the time of his death.

His relation with the Institute began at its start. When the Institute was established, he rendered assistance as a member of its preparatory committee. After its foundation he became a member of the council of the Institute and gave good advices to treat important problems that the Institute was confronted with on occasions. As the director of the Institute he endeavoured to make things go well, and encouraged its people effectively. We can say that the Institute at present owes him much.

Dr. Suetuna worked first in number theory and algebra and wrote excellent articles and books in this field. He was also interested in probability theory, and later in statistics. Actually, he gave lectures on probability theory at the Department of Mathematics, Tokyo University, and wrote a book "Probability Theory". From among his students good statisticians came out. On the other hand, he went profoundly into the oriental characteristic way of thinking and the Buddhistic philosophy. Concerning these he published pre-eminent articles. He was always thinking of things deeply. Further, he showed keen interest in philosophy of science and served as the President of the Japan Association for Philosophy of Science. He was a senior member of the Japan Mathematical Society and an honorary member of the Japan Statistical Society, too.

In the beginning of the year 1970 he went to hospital. In April he returned home, but in July went to the hospital again and remained there to the very last. The disease was lung cancer.

The Institute's funeral ceremony was held on August 25, 1970.

Indeed, it is a big pity that we have lost such a man of profound thinking and deep insight as Dr. Suetuna.

A BRIEF PERSONAL RECORD OF DR. ZYOITI SUETUNA

Born November 28, 1898, in Oita (Kyushu), Japan.

Graduated from Tokyo University, Department of Mathematics, in March 1922.

Lecturer at Kyushu University, Faculty of Engineering, from April 1922 to April 1923.

Assistant professor at Kyushu University, Faculty of Engineering, from April 1923 to May 1924.

Assistant professor at Tokyo University, Faculty of Science, Department of Mathematics, from May 1924 to April 1935.

Professor at Tokyo University, Faculty of Science, Department of Mathematics, from April 1935 to March 1959.

Member of the Japan Academy, selected in November 1947.

Director of the Institute of Statistical Mathematics from May 1947 to April 1948; from April 1958 to August 6, 1970.

Honorary professorship of Tokyo University, conferred in May 1959.

President of the Japan Association for Philosophy of Science, from December 1962 to August 6, 1970.

Honorary member of the Japan Statistical Society, July 1964.

Died August 6, 1970.