

Retirement of Professor Yujiro Ogawa



A stylized, handwritten signature of Yujiro Ogawa in black ink, written in a cursive style.

Professor Yujiro Ogawa retired on the 31st of March, 2009, from the Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences, the University of Tsukuba, after 36 years of research and teaching in the fields of geology, marine science, and tectonophysics. With our deepest appreciation, we would like to honor his personal history, his professional career, and his great contribution to the science of geology.

Yujiro Ogawa was born at Suginami in the metropolis of Tokyo on September 10, 1945, and spent his childhood in the Shonan beach area. After graduating from Eiko Gakuen Senior High School, Yokosuka, he entered the University of Tokyo in 1964. He specialized in geology and mineralogy at the Faculty of Science. After graduating with a B. Sc. in March 1968, he entered the graduate program for a M. Sc. and D. Sc. at the same university. He studied sedimentary and structural geology under the supervision of Prof. Toshio Kimura. In 1973, the University of Tokyo awarded him the degree of Doctor of Science for his research in the tectonic development of the Chichibu terrane in eastern Shikoku.

Yujiro Ogawa's professional career began in April 1973 with his appointment as a lecturer at the College of Humanities and Sciences, Nihon University, Tokyo. He was promoted to associate professor in April 1977. He was invited by the late Professor Kametoshi Kanmera to the Faculty of Science, Kyushu University, as an associate professor in October 1978, and was promoted to a full professor there in September 1989. In April 1992, he moved to the Institute of Geoscience, the University of Tsukuba, as a professor. With a reorganization of the

university, he transferred in April 2000 to the Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences.

At the University of Tsukuba, he lectured on structural geology and other related subjects for undergraduates at the College of Natural Sciences and the College of Geoscience, and for graduates at the Doctoral Program in Geoscience and the Doctoral Program in Earth Evolution Sciences. He also taught "Nature of Japan" to foreign students. Throughout his teaching career, he took great care in preparing his seminars and lectures to ensure that each one was modern, exciting, and topical. It is no surprise, then, that his students have associated professors of universities, employees of research institutions, and leaders of companies in various fields. In addition, foreign students from the United Kingdom, Bangladesh, Korea, Myanmar, Oman, China, Egypt, Senegal, and other countries enrolled in his classes.

Yujiro Ogawa's research mainly focused on the interpretation of the geologic structures of sediments and rocks in subduction zones and of basaltic and ophiolitic rocks in fault belts, based on field observation and structural and chemical analysis. His goal was to understand the migration processes during emplacement of sediments and rocks, their deformation mechanisms and processes, and the tectonic setting of basaltic rocks within accretionary complexes and fault belts, as well as global tectonic processes. His chief concern was on the origin of vein structures, and after collecting many examples from the world's convergent margins, he and his colleagues arrived at an interesting mechanical explanation of them as a kind of seismite.

In addition to the world's accretionary complexes and ophiolite belts, a particular interest of his has been the geology and tectonics of the Miura-Boso Peninsulas, central Japan. He and his students investigated the Miura accretionary prism and succeeded in constructing a tectonic model for the region. They also investigated the evolution of the Mineoka Ophiolite Belt in the Boso Peninsula, inferring that this belt represented a forearc sliver fault along the oblique subduction boundary of the Sagami trough in the northwestern Pacific Ocean. For many years beginning in the early 1980s, he investigated the Southern Uplands accretionary complex of Scotland, which is characterized by structural repetition of both chaotic and coherent units. He traced duplex structures and constructed a new deformation model in this region. He has taken meticulous care of the information contained in his geological field

observations.

In his most recent years, he has devoted himself mostly to the deep-sea science of oceanic trench areas through submersible dives to the Nankai-Sagami trough, Japan trench, Izu-Mariana trench, and Boso triple junction. In 1982, he was a shipboard scientist with Deep Sea Drilling Project Leg 84, and investigated the Middle America Trench off Guatemala. In 1986, he was a shipboard scientist with the French-Japanese KAIKO and KAIKO-NANKAI Projects, Ocean Drilling Program Leg 110, and investigated the structure and deformation mechanisms in the northern Barbados Ridge accretionary prism, Lesser Antilles. Between 1988 and 1993, he served on the Tectonics Panel of the Ocean Drilling Program. In 1994, he was a co-chief scientist of Ocean Drilling Program Leg 156 in Barbados.

Over his career, he has published about 180 papers in journals and several books, and he has given numerous presentations at international conferences.

In his retirement lecture, Yujiro Ogawa emphasized that positive proof in science comes from both necessary and sufficient conditions for a certain conclusion, but in fact these conditions are not always present in the geological sciences. He has also counseled us either to provide the two best possible solutions, or to collect as many lines of indirect evidence as possible to approach the best solution.

Yujiro Ogawa has made a great and long-term contribution to the development of international and domestic academic societies. He has been a member of the Japanese Geological Society, the Tokyo Geographical Society, and the American Geophysical Union. From 1982 to 1983, he was a British Council scholar at Imperial College, University of London. Since 1983, he has served as a bridge between Japan and the United Kingdom in his capacity as a fellow of the Geological Society of London. From 1997 to 2003, he held the laborious job of Editor-in-Chief for "Island Arc", the international journal of the Geological Society of Japan, which is recognized as a leading publication in the field of structure, dynamics, and evolution of plate convergence zones. In November 2000, he was named a Fellow of the Geological Society of America in recognition of his distinguished contributions to the geosciences.

He has also rendered great services to the improvement of high school education. Since 1986, he has been an author and chief editor of a geoscience textbook for senior high school published by Suken Shuppan.

In addition to these achievements, he has served on several international, governmental, or institutional committees for evaluation of proposals and planning of

projects, including the Ocean Drilling Program (ODP) and Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP), Japan Science and Technology Center (later Japan Agency for Marine-Science and Technology) (JAMSTEC), the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the Science Council of Japan, and the Japan Society for Promotion of Science.

Professor Ogawa enjoys in his free time such hobbies as rock climbing, golf, and cooking. He first took up golfing under the mentorship of one of his students, a semi-professional golfer doing a thesis study of an ophiolite belt on the site of a golf club in the Mineoka Tectonic Belt, because the club permitted him access only on the condition that he play golf there. Subsequently he became a golf enthusiast, even producing geological results on some courses. He has often invited university staff, both foreign and domestic students, and other friends to barbecue parties organized by him and his wife. His powers of communication and his cheerful disposition have often been the source for motivating interlaboratory and international research activities among many institutions and foreign students in the Tsukuba Science City.

In April 2009, the University of Tsukuba granted Yujiro Ogawa Emeritus Professorship for his long service and prominent achievements. All of us enjoy the hope that he may continue making contributions to the development of geological societies and the University of Tsukuba.

Finally, we would like to thank him for his integrity, his lengthy record of service, and his profound contributions to the geological community and the university. We fervently hope that he will continue to enjoy his life and research.

(Yuji Yagi)