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Foreword

The present issue of the Reports of *Research Institute for Applied Mechanics, Kyushu University, Number 146* collects papers for commemoration of Emeritus Professor Akira Masuda, who finished his carrier at Research Institute for Applied Mechanics, Kyushu University in March 2013.

Professor Masuda graduated from University of Tokyo in 1971 and received master's degree from Graduate School of Science of the same university in 1973. Then he went on to Doctor course of the same graduate school, and in 1975, he leaved the school to move to our institute as an assistant. He obtained the doctor of science from University of Tokyo in 1979. Then Doctor Masuda moved to Ocean Research Institute of University of Tokyo as an associate professor in 1989, and came back to our institute in 1991 as a professor. Thereafter he has consecutively contributed to the administrations of our institute as the directors of Tsuyazaki Marine Observatory, Dynamics Simulation Research Center and Center for East Asian Ocean-Atmosphere Research.

Major research field of Professor Masuda is physical oceanography. Nonlinear interactions of surface gravity waves are one of his outstanding contributions to this research field. His numerical scheme of wave-wave interaction (named as RIAM model), developed after theoretical investigations on its mechanism, has been adopted in the wave forecast model operated by Japan Meteorological Agency. For this contribution, he was officially commended from the agency. Theoretical explanation of bimodal character Kuroshio large meander is also outstanding contribution to physical oceanography. Because his interests are in fluid dynamics and mathematics behind, his scientific contributions cover geophysical fluid dynamics and meteorology as well as oceanography. Linear stability of double diffusive convection in a rotating system, characteristics of energy transport of Rossby waves, thermohaline ocean circulations in terms of diffusive reduced-gravity modes, and geostrophic turbulences are such examples.

Because he delights in scientific discussions with the colleagues, he organized several meetings as a part of joint collaboration research program of our institute. His intelligence and deep insights attract many attendees of the meetings. These outstanding contributions promote our institute and Japanese physical oceanography to higher levels.

I want to express our sincere thanks to his thorough contributions and superior activities in our research institute.

March 2014

Yuji Ohya
Director
Research Institute for Applied Mechanics