

Emeritus Professor HIROMI EGUCHI (1935–1999)

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Emeritus Professor HIROMI EGUCHI (1935–1999)

Emeritus Professor Hiromi Eguchi, Biotron Institute of Kyushu University, died of an internal disease on 21 April 1999 at the university hospital in Fukuoka, Japan. He had retired in March 1999 after 30 years of distinguished services to the Biotron Institute, Japanese Society of Environment Control in Biology and our journal *BIOTRONICS*.

Prof. Eguchi was born 3 June 1935 in Yame, Fukuoka. He earned his degrees of B.S. and M.S. in agriculture from Kyushu University. His research career started in 1965 at National Research Institute of Horticulture, and in 1968 he earned his Ph. D. in agriculture from Kyushu University. In 1969 he was appointed to Assistant Professor of Biotron Institute of Kyushu University and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1974 under Prof. T. Matsui who is the founder of the Biotron Institute. He worked together closely with Prof. Matsui to render distinguished services to development and management of the Biotron Institute, which now can furnish two hundred biologists per year with controlled environments in phytotrons, zootron, insectron and many kinds of growth chambers. After Prof. Matsui's retirement in 1985 he succeeded as Professor, and until his retirement in 1999 he served seven terms as Director of the Biotron Institute and Editor-in-Chief of *BIOTRONICS*. He also served in many leadership positions such as Vice-President in Japanese Society of Environment Control in Biology.

During the 30 years scientific career at Biotron Institute of Kyushu University, Prof. Eguchi was also active in promotion of biotronics as a new field of environmental biology. Under his leadership, new methodologies for measurement and control of environment and for measurement of plant responses were

developed, which were applied to environmental and experimental botany. In particular, he opened the way to non-contact and on-line measurement of growth and activity of plants by applying digital image processing with a TV camera and a computer. His pioneering works received Academic Award from Japanese Society of Environment Control in Biology, Japanese Agricultural Research Award from the Association of Japanese Agricultural Scientific Societies and Yomiuri Agricultural Research Prize from Yomiuri Newspaper Co.

Prof. Eguchi also enjoyed a high reputation as a photographer of wild plants. In his plant photographs, beauty in morphological and ecological characteristics of wild plants is represented through his scientific and artistic sensitivity, and he received many authoritative prizes for his photographs.

Prof. Eguchi's death means a serious loss to the academic worlds he concerned, in particular, to Biotron Institute of Kyushu University and our journal *BIOTRONICS*.

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