

Dear Yoshi

It was only two years ago, at the Timisoara symposium of IAHR, that I was introduced to you by our friend Professor Michihiro Nishi, so I am maybe one of your newest acquaintances and friends. I feel all the more honored to contribute to your web ceremony.

It was such a lucky opportunity for me to meet you, because you gave me the chance to share part of your thoughts and ideas during the last two years.

As you know I have been trying for many years to cope with the unsteady characteristics of hydropower machines for obvious practical reasons. During my work as an engineer in the industry, I have often been disappointed because, for my feeling, the rate of diffusion of new ideas in the field is much too low. So I was delighted to see that you have already studied many of these issues with a sound mathematical and physical background.

I am still impressed by your elegant theory dealing with the superposition of pressure waves in the casing of radial turbo machines. At the same time you managed to build experimental setups for your studies without extremely expensive equipment. Who else would have been able to demonstrate the fundamental wave phenomena in a spiral casing using commercial compressor parts from a vacuum cleaner?

Another strand of your studies was dealing with the rotor dynamic consequences of flow forces in the runner side chambers of hydraulic turbo machines. This is also a beautiful topic of interdisciplinary nature where thorough knowledge is too scarce in the industry. You would be astonished to learn that quite a number of large machines still have some operational limitation due to strange phenomena of runner whirl, and to hear the funny explanations that have been given in some cases. In this field also, I could learn a lot from your work. And also here you achieved the necessary experimental validation at modest expense, by ingenious adaptation of Professor Ohashi's test stand.

Even more than by your outstanding scientific abilities, I was stunned more than once because of your kind and modest personality. I wouldn't have dreamed of participating in your invited lectures at Warwick and at Kanazawa, just because you appreciated my ideas on the subjects of your studies. Also, I will not forget your generous hospitality during my visit to Osaka this past summer.

During my visit to your lab, I got the impression that you can inspire your students with the interesting topics and experiments. Considering your intense involvement in so many areas of fluid mechanic research, it is difficult to imagine that you could just simply stop doing research work. I hope very much that your transition to a new state will be a happy one, and that you may in some way or other continue to give your valuable input to the community of engineers.

Enjoy the increase of free time, and please consider spending some of it here in Switzerland.

Yours gratefully

Peter

Zurich, Switzerland, December 2012