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41. Akio Nakajima, 1921-1997

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38. Otto Vogl and Toshio Hayashi, *Akio Nakajima 1921-1997*, Polymer News, 22(10), 369 (1997)

Akio Nakajima 1921–1997

Dr. Akio Nakajima, Professor Emeritus of Kyoto University, and one of the most prominent members of the Japanese Polymer community and well renowned world-wide, died on February 12, 1997, one week before his 76th birthday.

Akio Nakajima was born on February 18, 1921 in Osaka City. After graduation with a B.A. degree from the Graduate Department of Fiber Chemistry, Faculty of Engineering of the Kyoto Imperial University, he enrolled in the Graduate School of Kyoto Imperial University and received his M.S. in September 1948 and his PhD in 1951.

Nakajima was appointed Research Fellow at the Institute of Japanese Chemical Fibers in Kyoto University in October 1948, and promoted to Associate Professor at the Department of Fiber Chemistry at Kyoto University in February 1949, a position he held until he was selected to become Professor in the Department of Polymer Chemistry in November 1962. He held this position until his mandatory retirement in 1985 and became, subsequently, Emeritus Professor. Thereafter, Akio Nakajima, joined the faculty of Osaka Industrial University as Professor.

During his career at Kyoto University Nakajima was also the President of the Research Institute for Medical Polymers at Kyoto University from 1984 to 1985.

In his earlier scientific career, Akio Nakajima also spent two years abroad. He was a Research Associate at the Chemistry Department, Cornell University, in Ithaca, NY. He was also invited as a Guest Professor at Beijing University, Beijing, China, in 1984 and at Nankai University, China, in 1986 and was awarded Emeritus status at Nankai University.

Over the years, Akio Nakajima served in a number of Government Agencies. From 1973 to 1984 he was a member of the Academic Council, The Ministry of Education, from 1982 to 1991 he was a Member of the Committee of the Evaluation of the Industrial Basic Technology of the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MITI), and from 1982 to 1991 he served as a Member of the Committee for the Evaluation of Clinical Technology of the Ministry of Welfare.

Akio Nakajima was an active leader in professional Societies. He was elected President of the Society of Polymer Chemistry, Japan for a two year term from May 1978 to 1980. He was also elected President of The Society of Biomaterials, Japan, from 1984 to 1988 and was a member of a number of professional societies in Japan and abroad.

Nakajima was also involved in IUPAC activities. From 1975 to 1979 he was Titular Member and from 1979 to 1981 a coopted Member of the IUPAC Macromolecular Division. From 1981 to 1991, he was Japan's National Representative.

For his outstanding achievements, Akio Nakajima received a number of prestigious Awards. In 1977 the Award of The Chemical Society of Japan; in 1983 the meritorious Award of the Society of Polymer Science, Japan; and in 1989 the meritorious Award of the Japanese Society of Biomaterials. In 1988 Nakajima was awarded the Clemson Award of the American Society for Biomaterials.

Akio Nakajima worked in a number of different fields:

1. Molecular Conformation of Polymers;
2. Molecular Structure and Properties of Biopolymers;
3. Polyelectrolytes;
4. Occurrence of Organized Structures such as Micro-Heterophase Structures and Liquid Crystals, their Structure and Properties;
5. Biomedical Polymers;
6. Polymer Membranes;
7. Surface Chemical Studies on Polymers;
8. Thermodynamic and Hydrodynamic Properties of Polymer-Solvent Systems;
9. Thermodynamic Studies on Concentrated Polymer Solutions and Polymer Liquids;
10. Molecular Structure, Molecular Weight and Molecular Weight Distribution;
11. Thermodynamics of Crystalline Polymers, Polymer Single Crystals and Fibers.
12. Characterization of Commercial Polymers.

Akio Nakajima's extensive scientific work has been published in about 330 scientific papers, 65 reviews and 30 books.

Nakajima was also involved in Editorial activities. He was a board member of editorial Boards of Polymer Journal, Polymer Bulletin and the Journal of Biomedical Science, Polymer Edition.

The death of Akio Nakajima has taken from us a highly respected colleague and friend and an important and admired member of the scientific community of Japan who was greatly appreciated world-wide.

This article was prepared by **Otto Vogl***, Kyoto Institute of Technology, Matsugasaki, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto 606, Japan, **Toshio Hayashi**, Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, Osaka Prefecture University, Sakai City, Osaka 593, Japan.

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