

Professor Koyo Yonebayashi
(1942-2015)



I think of Professor Yonebayashi posthumously

I was shocked to learn of the passing of Professor Koyo Yonebayashi on the 22nd of February, 2015. I thought it could not be true.

He was born in Nonoichi of Ishikawa Prefecture in 1942 and quitted the PhD course of the Graduate School of Kyoto University to get the position of Assistant Professor (soil Science) in Kyoto Prefectural University in 1970. Using a new technique for analyzing soil organic matter, he concentrated in the study of fractionation of humic acids and relationship between soil humic substances and clay minerals; kaolinic clay minerals in tropical Asia, distribution of organic nitrogen in tropical paddy soils, and so on.

In 1992 the Japanese Society of Sago Palm Studies was started. He was one of important council members of the society and always supported the sago society office to organize the soil scientist group in the sago and sago-related field. He became a team leader of Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (A) of Environmental rehabilitation of tropical peat land supported by Japan Society for The Promotion of Science in 1992 to 1994 to propose a new survey method for tropical peat using a radar sensing. Sago palm plantation has been developed in tropical deep peat areas of Sarawak in Malaysia since 1970's. The evolution of methane by the change from tropical lowland forest to sago plantation, the comparative study of sago palm growth on deep and shallow peat soils, the nitrogen uptake by young sago palms and stable isotope carbon ratio of sago palm have been elucidated as results of his enthusiastic research in 1996 to 2013.

I worked on many studies he was involved in, including tropical peat and sago palm. His perspectives bore the education for students and research activities for sago palm. I would like to tell him how much I respected his warm view for sago palm.

Thank you, Professor Yonebayashi, for making the soil and sago world a more interesting place.

Masanori Okazaki
Ishikawa Prefectural University