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TO THE MEMORY OF
PROFESSOR KINZŌ SENO



Kinzō SENO

1905-1964

Eulogy of Professor Kinzō SENO

Professor Kinzō Seno was born on June 17, 1905 in Maizuru City, Kyoto Prefecture and passed away on August 11, 1964. In 1929, he entered Kyoto University and graduated there in 1932, receiving a degree of Bachelor of Science. In 1933, he was appointed as assistant at Geophysical Institute, Kyoto University. Professor Seno devoted himself at the University, both to the development of research work and to teaching, throughout a long period of about thirty years.

The research fields of Professor Seno were very wide, covering almost all problems related to the nature of inland waters. For an appreciation of Professor Seno's research activity, it may be convenient to divide it into three periods. For about 13 years after graduation from Kyoto University, he made field observations on hot springs in Beppu Spa under the guidance of the late Professor Emeritus Takaharu Nomitsu. He devoted himself to finding the geophysical properties of hot springs, which had been so far studied mostly from the view point of geology or chemistry. In 1939, he was appointed assistant professor at Beppu Geophysical Research Station, Kyoto University. In 1942, the degree of Doctor of Science was conferred on him in honor of his original article: "Distribution of Certain Geophysical Elements in the Hot Springs District of Beppu", which made clear the physical mechanism of fluctuating phenomena of hot springs by his excellent investigation. At the same time, he presented a classical article about constituents of salt in hot spring water.

After World War II, Professor Seno changed his post to the Geophysical Institute, Kyoto University and continued hydrological research. We may call it the second period, in which Professor Seno's interest widely extended into many hydrological and hydrothermal problems. He pioneered the practical method of pumping test to predict the possibility of future development of hot spring area. This research also contributed to the finding of the physical properties of underground structure in thermal area. He surveyed numerous spas in Japan to collect data about hot springs and gave proper suggestions for the improvement of hot springs. On the other hand, Professor Seno was an excellent leader for many researchers and contributed to the progress of newly developed geophysics of hot springs.

In 1961, he was promoted to professor at the Geophysical Institute, Kyoto University and, in addition, appointed Director of Beppu Geophysical Research

Station. It was the most significant period throughout his research life to approach the origin of hydrothermal activities. He strongly felt that the conditions of hydrothermal activity could not be fully understood without broad knowledge of geosciences. He made great efforts in the difficult work of combining individual research fields, and thus played an important role in academic societies such as the Japanese Society of Limnology, the Balneological Society of Japan and the Geochemical Society of Japan. Also, he was a member of the Committee of Geophysical Research Connection in Science Council of Japan.

He was expected to establish much greater achievements not only in Japan but also in the world, but, regrettably, on August 11, 1964, he slept the final sleep. Professor Seno was the pioneer in the field of geophysics of hot springs in Japan. His great contribution will be admired forever. His successors are about to rise from deep sadness, and to carry out his purpose.

The soul of Professor Seno! Please protect our future and guide us in the path of righteousness.

September 1965

by Kyōzō Kikkawa

CONTENTS

Kyōzō KIKKAWA: Eulogy of Professor Kinzō SENO	i
Syōichirō HAYAMI: A Note on the Critical Tractive Force of an Alluvial River	1
Kyōzō KIKKAWA and Shiko SHIGA: The Modified Chemical Constituent of Sea Water Intruding into the Coastal Aquifer	7
Kōsaborō YAMASHITA: The Chemical Character of the Boiling Springs in the Beppu Hydrothermal Field.....	17
Hiroshi KAWABATA and Shiko SHIGA: Correlations among Tide, Discharge, Temperature and Chemical Contents at Kamegawa, Beppu City...	25
Kōzō YUHARA and Akira TOMOSADA: Thermodynamical Properties of Natural Steams and Hydrothermal Structure of Beppu Geothermal Field	33
Shiko SHIGA: Chemical Composition of the Drainage from Aso Welded Tuff on the Ōno River	45
Ken SAHASHI: On the Vertical Distribution of Snow Density in Relatively Deep Snow Layer.....	65
Yasushi MITSUTA: Winter Precipitation on High Mountains	73
Yoshiaki TOBA and Masaaki TANAKA: Dry Fallout of Sea-salt Particles and its Seasonal and Diurnal Variation.....	81
Kazuo OKUNISHI and Setsuo OKUDA: A New Method for Tracing Ground Water Flow with Low Head Gradient.....	93
Kazuo OKUNISHI: Dispersion and Adsorption of Tracer Material in Tracing Ground Water Flow.....	99
Michihiro YASUHARA and Masajirō ŌTA: Magnetization of Aso Volcano	109
Shōgō MATSUSHIMA: High Pressure Polymorphic Transitions of Bismuth Observed by the Ultrasonic Velocity Measurement	117
Izuo OZAWA: On the Observations of the Abrupt Change of the Elastic Energy in the Crust in the Remarkable Earthquakes	125
Akira KUBOTERA and Norihiko SUMITOMO: A Gravity Survey on Aso Caldera, Kyūshū District, Japan (1).....	139
Kennosuke OKANO and Isamu HIRANO: Micro-earthquakes Occurring in the Vicinity of Kyoto (2)	151
Tatsuhiko WADA and Hiroyasu ONO: Spectral Study of Volcanic Micro-Tremors (1).....	169