

Preface

This volume is edited on honor of Professor Nobuyuki Hori on the occasion of his retirement from Tokyo Metropolitan University in March 2007. Every contributor has had contact with him in various ways, some as former graduate students, some as members of the Department of Geography, and some as academic colleagues of Africa.

Professor Nobuyuki Hori was born at Keijo (now Seoul in Republic of Korea) in October 1943. After graduating from the University of Hiroshima in 1957, he entered the master program of the graduate school, the University of Hiroshima. In 1958, he was invited to Tokyo Metropolitan University as Research Associate. After nine years, he left for the University of Hiroshima as Associate Professor. He was granted a degree of Doctor of Science from Tokyo Metropolitan University in 1977, with a thesis entitled “A Morphometrical Study on the Geographical Distribution of Coral Reefs”. He was invited again to Tokyo Metropolitan University as Associate Professor in 1992, and was promoted to Professor in 1994.

He has started his academic works from the morphometrical studies of the worldwide coral reefs since he was an undergraduate student. From 1995, he took over the team leader of the overseas research program sponsored by Grant-in-Aid for Overseas Scientific Research Program of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture. He since then, published many papers and reports on the human responses to environmental changes in savanna region of Africa. These results were compiled into the reports “*Human Response to Drastic Change of Environments in Africa*”(1999; 2002; 2007). Besides the overseas research, he took part to various domestic researches, such as domestication of the landscapes. He also conducted energetically many domestic excursions, always ready to discuss intently with his graduate students and his colleagues forgetting about time.

Professor Hori examined 10 doctoral thesis as an examiner in chief, encouraging young researchers. He served as the Principal of the Senior High School affiliated to Tokyo Metropolitan University for three years (1998-2001), bringing up younger generation. As a result, he was awarded the prize of Leading Professor of Education in Tokyo Metropolitan University in 2006.

In the same year, he started to serve as a member of the Worldwide Cultural Inheritance Special Committee of Japan, that set no end to his activity.

Finally, we wish Professor Hori many years of active academic work and good health.

March 24th, 2007

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