

## Preface

This volume is edited in honor of Professor Takehiko Mikami on his retirement from Tokyo Metropolitan University in March, 2008.

Professor Takehiko Mikami was born on July 3, 1944 in Kyoto. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Science degree in Geography from the University of Tokyo in 1969 and 1971, respectively. In March 1977, he was awarded a Doctor of Science degree in Geography from the same university. His doctoral thesis title was “Dynamic climatological studies on the regional difference of climatic variations in the Northern Hemisphere”. Then he began his career as Research Associate at the Department of Human Geography, the University of Tokyo in 1978. He became Associate Professor at the Department of Geography, Ochanomizu University, in 1980. In 1987, he was invited to be Associate Professor at the Department of Geography, Tokyo Metropolitan University (TMU), and has been Professor since 1991. From March to September, 1989, Professor Mikami served as Visiting Researcher at the Climatic Research Unit, University of East Anglia, United Kingdom, where he worked with Prof. P. D. Jones. He also served as Visiting Professor at Tohoku University, and worked with Prof. Masayuki Tanaka from October, 1991 to March, 1994. Professor Mikami served as Vice Dean, Faculty of Urban Environmental Sciences from 2005, and Chair of the International Exchange Committee from 2006 until his retirement.

His research area covers wide range of climatology and has published 128 research papers, mainly on climatic variations and urban climatology. His special interest has been on climatic variations in historical period, and urban heat island phenomena. During his career, he organized three international conferences in TMU as a chairperson: The International Symposium on the Little Ice Age Climate (LIAC) in 1991, The International Conference on Climate Change and Variability –Past, Present and Future- (CCV99) in 1999, and The International Symposium on Sustainable Urban Environment (ISSUE2007) in 2007.

As for international activities, he has been a full member of the Commission on Climatology in the International Geographical Union (IGU) since 1996. He has also served as an editorial board member of “International Journal of Climatology” since 2005, and was an expert reviewer of the IPCC WG1 Fourth Assessment Report in 2006 and 2007. In Japan, he has been the Director of Tokyo Geographical Society since 2003, and Associate Member of the Science Council of Japan since 2006.

Recently, Professor Mikami has been devoted himself to urban climate research, in particular, urban heat island. One of the examples of such activities is the Metropolitan Environmental Temperature and Rainfall Observation System (METROS, 2002-2005), which observes urban heat island phenomena in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area using intensive automatic temperature and meteorological observations. METROS was a joint project between TMU and the Tokyo Metropolitan Research Institute for Environmental Protection.

Professor Mikami has also dedicated himself to applying his research results to society. He has worked for several urban heat island-related committees sponsored by the Ministry of the Environment and by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport since 2000, and was the Chair of “A Study Committee on the Global Warming Measures and the Local City Planning” sponsored by the Ministry of the Environment (2006-2007). After these valuable contributions, he was awarded Meritorious Prize of the Conservation Activities for Atmospheric Environment by

the Ministry of the Environment in 2007.

Professor Mikami examined 10 doctoral theses on climatology as examiner in chief. He has always been encouraging young researchers. His passion for urban climate and environment has encouraged many researchers to join Climatology Laboratory of TMU. The total number of the laboratory members, including visiting researchers, has reached 27 in 2007.

We cordially wish him long years of healthy and fruitful life both in research and education.

March 28, 2008

Jun Matsumoto  
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Yoshio Sugiura  
Chairperson of the Department of Geography