

PREFACE

This volume was edited in honor of Professor Ikuo Maejima on the occasion of his retirement from Tokyo Metropolitan University. Most of the contributors to this issue are his former graduate students who have been given lectures from Professor Maejima in the field of climatology. Around half of these articles are based on the doctoral theses of contributors who took the degree of doctor under the supervision of Professor Maejima.

After graduating from the University of Tokyo in 1951, he entered a professional career as research assistant at Waseda University in 1956. He was promoted to lecturer in 1958 and to associate professor in 1962. In 1963, he was invited to Tokyo Metropolitan University as associate professor. With the retirement of Professor Taiji Yazawa in 1977, he was appointed professor of climatology. Since then, he continued playing an important role not only in the field of academic education and research but in various parts of the university administration. He served four years as a trustee from 1985 to 1989 and was elected to the dean of the Faculty of Science in 1989 and held its position until his retirement from TMU.

His research career covers widely from synoptic climatology to historical climatology. In the early stage of his career, he studied natural seasons of Japan from synoptic climatological point of view. He succeeded in distinguishing three striking rainy seasons (the Baiu, the Shurin and the Winter monsoon) and three intermediate seasons (the Midsummer, the Late autumn and the Spring) by noticing weather singularities. This idea was developed for his climatic division of Japan. He has also had a great concern with climatic reconstruction in historical period. In the beginning, he gave attention to the continuous weather record described in old diaries. By using several weather records, he made attempts to reconstruct climatic situations in historical period, especially in the Little Ice Age.

Professor Maejima has always educated younger generations with eager. He contributed greatly to the research training of graduate students. Total number of doctorates which he granted since 1982 has reached twelve, and this is of course the greatest number since the beginning of the TMU graduate course in geography.

We wish to dedicate this volume to Professor Maejima in token of our hearty thanks to him.

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