

Honorary Membership to IAVS

Awarded to Kazue Fujiwara, 2015

Kazue Fujiwara (藤原一繪) comes from the famous clan that named emperors and generally ran early Japan. Even in the 19th century, the wife of the Emperor Meiji was a Fujiwara descendant. As it turns out, the 'Fuji' (藤) in Fujiwara has nothing to do with Mt. Fuji but is instead the name of an indigenous Japanese plant, *Wisteria floribunda*. The name Fujiwara ("wisteria field") was an honorific, bestowed by the emperor Tenji upon Nakatomi-no Katamari (614-669), whose descendants took it as the name of their clan. To this day Fujiwara remains one of the most respected family names in Japan; and this 'fuji', along with its alternate pronunciation 'tō' (only in combinations), still appears in many common Japanese family names, such as Fujimori, Fujita, Itō and Satō.

Kazue herself was born in wartime Tōkyō, so her mother took her to northeastern Japan, where life was safer. As Japan recovered after the war, Kazue returned to Kantō (the Tōkyō area) to attend public school in Tōkyō and Chigasaki (down the coast) and high school in Hiratsuka. After graduating in 1963, she entered Yokohama National University, where she studied general biology and was fond of road rallies. During this time she also met the young professor Akira Miyawaki and became interested in his ideas of vegetation study. After graduating in 1967 she became a graduate researcher under Miyawaki (until 1973) and a high-school biology teacher (1967-69) in Fujisawa and Yokohama. In 1969 she received a CNRS stipend to study terril vegetation (and French) with Prof. Reinhold Linder in Lille (April-June). After France she moved to Germany and joined the famous group of Reinhold Tüxen in Rinteln (July-September), where she studied raised bogs and learned German. Kazue returned to Japan in the autumn of 1969, already the unusually cosmopolitan Japanese woman that we have always known.

Back in Japan, Kazue began by summarizing the vegetation of the famous Ozegahara wetlands and describing local and regional vegetation, with maps of actual and potential vegetation. She also began writing on the creation of green environments in urban and other built-up areas. In 1973 Kazue officially became an Assistant Professor, and in 1978 she finished her Doctor of Science degree from Tōhoku University. She also married during this time, built a house in Chigasaki, and had two daughters, Yōko and Maki.

In the 1980s Kazue began publishing more independently, in particular her four-part classification



Original watercolour painting given to Kazue in Brno as part of the Honorary Membership Award. It was especially made for this occasion by the Dutch artist Ed Hazebroek, depicting *Wisteria floribunda* flowers (her family name is related to this plant).

and analysis of the evergreen broad-leaved forests of Japan. Her paper with Miyawaki on the evergreen and secondary forests of Kantō helped demonstrate that evergreen broad-leaved forest is in fact the potential natural vegetation of a large part of Japan, even where covered then and now by secondary deciduous forests. Her 1987 paper on "Aims and Methods of Phytosociology" is still probably the best brief but sufficient explanation in English of how to do phytosociology.

Also during the 1980s, though, Kazue's largest project was as major field researcher and author of text, tables and maps for the exhaustive series on the "Vegetation of Japan" (10 volumes, edited by Miyawaki). Even so, she also found time for a first major foreign project, as a field researcher and co-author for a four-year project on the mangroves of Thailand. In 1985 she began lecturing officially, at Hōsei University in Tōkyō, and in 1986 she finally became an Associate Professor at Yokohama National University, in the recently established Institute of Environmental Science and Technology.

Kazue's first trip to China, in autumn 1985, began a long interest in Chinese evergreen broad-leaved



Kazue with Yukito Nakamura, Elgene Box, Pavel Krestov, and Ken Sato, under “tall forbs” on Sakhalin

forests and Chinese vegetation in general. In 1986 she visited the southeastern USA for the first time and began studying its warm-temperate and deciduous forests. She was thus the only locally experienced Japanese member of the Eastern North American Vegetation Survey (1988-90), funded by Japan and led by Miyawaki. For the subsequent book she wrote chapters on the evergreen broad-leaved forests and mangroves of the southeastern USA, in comparison with East Asia.

In 1993, after the age-mandated retirement of Miyawaki, Kazue was able to obtain his position as Professor of the Department of Vegetation Science. She quickly accumulated many graduate students, from overseas as well as from Japan, which led immediately to more wide-ranging fieldwork. In particular she studied forests and their potential rehabilitation, with her students, not only in Japan but also throughout much of Asia and even in Brazil, Senegal and Ethiopia. She also continued comparative work in eastern North America and was a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Georgia in 1999.

The increasing number of Chinese students around 2000 led to more fieldwork in China (plus [Chinese] Mongolia and Manchuria) and first syntheses on Chinese *Fagus* forests, the widespread *Quercus mongolica* forests of northern China, and north-Chinese deciduous forests in general. A major project on “Integrated Vegetation Mapping in Asia” brought the opportunity for even wider-ranging field study, including the Russian Far East (photo above), central and northern Siberia, and dry areas of Central Asia.

When Kazue herself was forced to retire (2010, at age 65), she moved to Yokohama City University, where she continues her re-vegetation and other work in China and other countries, including Nepal, Turkey, most recently Indonesia, and since 1990 in Kenya. Kazue and her students were also quick to study coastline effects of the great tsunami in the Indian Ocean (2004) and northeastern Japan (2011).

Kazue has always had a particular talent for organizing special sessions on timely topics at major international meetings. Her 1990 session at INTECOL (Yokohama) on evergreen broad-leaved forests was combined with three related symposia for a first book synthesis on “Forest Ecosystems of East and Southeast Asia”. Her 1998 session in Firenze focused on early evidence of vegetation responses to warming, and she took a truly global view in 1999 (Botanical Congress) with a session on “Vegetation of Analogous Environments of the Northern versus Southern Hemisphere”. Her 2002 session in Seoul on “Ecology in Beech and Oak Forests” was followed up 10 years later with “*Quercus* versus *Fagus* in Asian and other Temperate Deciduous Forests”, for the annual IAVS meeting, also in Korea. Finally, for the IAVS symposium in Lyon (2011) she organized a session on “Warm-Temperate Deciduous Forests around the Northern Hemisphere”, which also became a book and included her synthesis.

Kazue has also served on the organizing committees for IAVS and INTECOL meetings, and the 1993 Botanical Congress. In 2000 she was the overall organizer of the IAVS symposium in Nagano and its excursions throughout Japan. She was an IAVS Vice-President (2000-2007), still serves on the IAVS

Advisory Council (since 1994), and is a familiar figure at IAVS meetings (photo below), missing only one annual meeting since 1991. She was also an INTECOL board member (2001-2008) and has long contributed to the Japanese Ecological Society and to regional meetings in East Asia.

Kazue Fujiwara is perhaps best known as one of the world's foremost phytosociologists, adhering closely to classical standards and procedures but also able to adapt phytosociology to all kinds of environments and analysis objectives, including rehabilitation efforts. She is also known for her extensive knowledge of the vegetation of the whole world, having studied vegetation in the field in about 50 countries or comparable regions (e.g. photo right), and for her valuable global-scale comparisons and syntheses.

A Festschrift in Kazue's honor has been prepared, includes a more detailed biography, and lists her many publications. It should appear soon, under the appropriate title "Vegetation Structure and Function at Different Spatial, Temporal and Conceptual Scales." For me, Kazue has been a valuable co-author, critic and colleague, and I would like to thank her once again for all I have seen and learned from working with her. I'm sure all IAVS members join me in wishing her many more active and rewarding years.

Elgene O. Box



Photo by: A. Greller

Kazue in the field, on the Baja California excursion in 2010



Photo by: W. Welss

Kazue asking a question at an IAVS meeting. Left to right in front are: Franco Pedrotti, Wolfgang Haber and Erika Pignatti (and Hartmut Dierschke at far right, next row back)