

## **Dr. Ichiro Taniguchi**, former president of AIAA-JFSC, passed away

**Dr. Ichiro Taniguchi**, who was the president of AIAA-JFSC from 2001 through 2003, suddenly passed away on 1 November 2009. He was 72 years old.

Dr. Taniguchi consecutively held a number of important posts including the chairman and CEO of Mitsubishi Electric Corp. In the area of space activities, he has occupied the chairman of Space Activities Promotion Committee of Nippon Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) for 12 years. At this position, Dr. Taniguchi made great efforts, as the leader of the Japanese space industries, to utilize space for the whole national prosperity/security and to make space industries to take the key roll in national policy.



For these purposes, he took the active leadership in preparing the national space development and utilization policy, promoting the space utilization in national security, and supporting the enactment of the “Basic Space Law” from the industries side. The budgetary assignment for the recent important Japanese spacecraft programs such as “Wideband Internetworking Engineering Test and Demonstration Satellite (WINDS)” and “Quasi-zenith Satellites System”, and initiation of full-scale utilization of dedicated remote sensing satellites for the national security information gathering area cannot be discussed without mentioning the dedicated efforts by Dr. Taniguchi representing the space industries of Japan.

At AIAA-JFSC, Dr. Taniguchi acted as the president from September 2001 to September 2003. During that period, the 21st AIAA International Communications Satellite Systems Conference (ICSSC), the second ICSSC in Japan, was held in Yokohama. Dr. Taniguchi, as the president of AIAA-JFSC and president/CEO of Mitsubishi Electric Corp., the secretary organization of the conference, actively supported the financial aspect of the conference implementation. Further, he presented a noteworthy keynote paper, at the opening of the conference, titled “The Impact of Satellite Communications on Information Infrastructure”, overviewing the role of satellite communications in 21st century world information infrastructure.

Since Dr. Taniguchi has been the leader of space industries in Japan for more than 10 years, his further contribution in leading the Japanese space industries policy was much expected by everybody. It is deeply regretted that he passed away so early. We all thank him from the bottom of our hearts for his great contribution for Japanese space programs and AIAA-JFSC activities.

(Takao Ueda, Special Advisor for Editorial Committee)



▲ Dr. Taniguchi and the author (front right) with Professors Helm and Pelton, George Washington University, at AIAA-ICSSC 21, April, 2003.



▲ At the AIAA-JFSC Award Ceremony, Prof. Helm, Mr. Yoshida of JSAT, Dr. Taniguchi, the author, and Dr. Iida, from right to left.