

Contribution of Mr. Taniguchi to the Mathematical Community of Japan

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Toyosaburo Taniguchi¹, chairman emeritus of the board of Toyobo Corporation, established the Taniguchi Foundation in 1929 with his personal funds in accordance with his late father's will.

Mr. Taniguchi's aim has been to promote research in the basic sciences in Japan as well as to promote mutual understanding and friendship on an international level through international exchange of idea and research in the sciences.

Mr. Taniguchi attended the Third National Senior High School at Kyoto with the late Kiyoshi Oka and Professor Yasuo Akizuki, and their friendship continued through the years. In fact, while Oka had been doing research on the theory of the functions of several complex variables under the difficult conditions of World War II, Mr. Taniguchi supported him financially. In 1956, Professor Akizuki, then at Kyoto University, approached Mr. Taniguchi and informed him that the Mathematical Community in Japan was so short of funds that they could not afford to organize conferences or meetings to exchange their ideas. Mr. Taniguchi promptly instituted a division for mathematics within the Taniguchi Foundation. Thus, he became the sponsor of a summer seminar, headed by Professor Akizuki. The first seminar was held at Akakura in 1956 on "Manifold Theory from Differential Geometric Viewpoint" organized by Y. Matsushima and K. Nomizu, and attended by N. Iwahori, S. Nakano, I. Satake, S. Murakami and several others. Since that time the seminar has been held each year on various topics of mathematics. At times foreign scholars also participated in the seminar. Mr. Taniguchi supported the Japan-United States Symposium on Mathematical Education in 1964. In 1966, the Taniguchi Foundation sponsored the International Congress on Differential Equations at Katata to which Professor W. L. Baily, K. O. Friedrichs, K. Kodaira, J. J. Kohn, M. Kuranishi, R. S. Phillips, H. Rossi and D. C. Spencer were invited.

In 1974, Mr. Taniguchi contributed a huge amount of his personal funds to the then existing Taniguchi Foundation and began anew. At this time, Mr. Taniguchi promoted and sponsored an International Symposium on a small scale in various fields of sciences.

¹Mr. Toyosaburo Taniguchi passed away in 1994 at the age of 93.

In particular, Mr. Taniguchi was convinced of the value of limiting the number of participants in order to allow maximum flow of communication and personal contact. While it has been his desire primarily to raise the level of scientific thought and research in Japan, at the same time it was his dream to provide a forum where promising young scholars the world over may gather informally to exchange their thoughts, thereby contributing to mutual understandings, peace and the development of mankind in the world of the future. We respect this idea of Mr. Taniguchi, are grateful to him, and wish to cooperate with him in the future in his efforts to realize his goal.

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