

Preface

The present conference was held to commemorate the centennial birthday of late Professor Kiyoshi Oka in the fall of 2001 from October 30th through November 5th at Kyoto and from November 6th through 8th at Nara. This volume contains the records and the contributed articles based on the talks delivered at the conference, and is dedicated to the memory of Kiyoshi Oka.

It is our great pleasure to include a letter of Professor Henri Cartan written for this conference. As we planned to ask Professor H. Cartan to write some words for this memorial conference and had a contact with him, we learned that he had written such a letter already, being asked by Professor Jean Pierre Serre. Soon later we were informed that it was organized so by Professor Reinhold Remmert. Unfortunately, Professor R. Remmert was unable to come to the conference because of his health condition, but the letter was presented and read by Masakazu Suzuki at the opening. We sincerely express our deepest gratitude to Professor R. Remmert for his kind arrangement.

Since there is included a survey article by Toshio Nishino on K. Oka, we limit here ourselves only to make a brief comment how the conference was organized. The idea to hold such a conference for K. Oka came up about four years ago in a small number of Japanese colleagues working in complex analysis in several variables. Then in the spring of 2000, it swiftly grew up among broader people. The initial organizing committee was formed in summer, 2000, and then it had been enlarged to the present one. We sincerely appreciate the kindness of the family of late Professor K. Oka who accepted the idea of the present conference with pleasure.

Speakers were invited not only from those in complex analysis in several variables, but also from those in neighboring areas to which the work of K. Oka has given influences.

In 1999 the remaining manuscripts and memoranda of K. Oka were donated to Nara Women's University Library by his family. Nara Women's University Library run a special exhibition of the Oka Collection including those manuscripts and memoranda for the national holiday of culture, November 3rd., actually, 1st to 8th at the Memorial Auditorium of Important Cultural Property. The dates of this memorial conference had been selected, so that it was coherent to the special exhibition.

The first part of the conference at Kyoto was held as a special program of Research Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Kyoto University, and the second part at Nara was held under the joint sponsorship of