

Opening Address

Dr. Hitoshi Kume

Professor Emeritus, the University of Tokyo;
Chair, the Organizing Committee

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. As was introduced, my name is Kume. For such an early morning, thank you very much for coming to this International Symposium on Dr. Kaoru Ishikawa Birth Centenary Commemoration. As the chair of the organizing committee of this project, I would like to extend some words at the opening.

Although, I'm the chair of the organizing committee, Dr. Kano and the managing director of JUSE, Mr. Kotsuka, have mainly carried out this project, so I really haven't had any specific role to play. Since I'm the oldest of Prof. Ishikawa's students, I accepted this position, but really I am just a nominal chair. My age was the only reason I accepted this chairmanship.

Last year, in autumn, in Nagoya, we held the annual meeting of the IAQ, the International Academy for Quality. At that time, the chairman of the IAQ, Mr. Janak Mehta who is also present today, asked me to say a few words at the opening of the annual meeting of the IAQ, and when I asked him why, he said it was because I was the oldest member.

But because of my age, it is difficult for me to assume such an important position and so I declined the invitation at first, but then Dr. Kano made a very strong request so at last I understood that because I'm the oldest it was my responsibility to assume this position and I accepted the role.

Recently, I have become very forgetful. For example, I often forget where the keys to my room and car are and I have to look for them. However, I can still remember things from the past relatively well so I can be of help to talk about Prof. Ishikawa.

Taking this opportunity, I again wanted to read the books of Prof. Ishikawa and learn once more from his words, but since I might forget the contents by just reading the books, I wanted to take notes about what I had learned. If needed to, I could read the notes again.

I started to take notes and then Dr. Kano kindly suggested using these notes for the Textbook of Quality Month, and I thought it was a good idea. According to the publisher, thick and expensive books are not selling so well recently.

The textbook of Quality Month comprises about 40,000 characters, is A5, contains

thousands of pages, and is only 500 yen per copy. It is very affordable. In this sense, I thought it is very appropriate to disseminate what Prof. Ishikawa taught us.

I asked the Quality Month committee to publish my notes and they kindly accepted my idea and started to immediately prepare for publication. Owing to JUSE Press, we were able to compile “What is Quality Control?” by Prof. Ishikawa, edited by Kume. “What is Quality Control?” That’s the title. If you are older, you probably remember the title. To disseminate the idea of quality control in Japan, Prof. Ishikawa compiled the textbook titled “What is Quality Control?” for his own lectures. For seminars, we used to call the textbook, as the “What is” book, so for me the name is so dear, and I feel such nostalgia. Later, this textbook was compiled to publish as a thick book, titled *Introduction to QC*. Because of that, I decided on the title “What is Quality Control?” for this textbook of Quality Month.

Owing to JUSE Press, the textbook was published. I was concerned about whether it would be delivered in time because I really wanted it for today, but there were no problems at all and we made it. We would like to give each of you a copy, which should be included in the symposium package. Please read the textbook and if you think it is good, please recommend it to your friends and colleagues. However, those copies are not free.

I also really hoped to have this textbook translated for our international guests, but not by a machine, I really wanted to use a translator who was able to translate the philosophy of Prof. Ishikawa. So I asked Mr. Loftus who has translated QC-related books, articles and papers for 40 years, including Prof. Ishikawa’s *Introduction to QC*, the quarterly magazine of AOTS, and many of my papers and books. I thought he was really appropriate, so I asked Mr. J. H. Loftus from the United Kingdom to translate this book.

He has already retired from translation; however, because of our long-term friendship, and because this is a book related to Prof. Ishikawa, he kindly accepted this job. However, because of the cost and the timing it was difficult to translate the whole textbook in time for today so I asked him to translate only the core part. For our international guests, I would also like to give you a copy of the summary of English version too.

I am really looking forward to listening to all of the presenters today, but we shouldn’t indulge only in reminiscence. We should also take this opportunity to refresh quality control by Prof. Ishikawa and we can start anew as new quality control.

With this I would like to close my remarks. Thank you very much.

Symposium Orientation

Mr. Ichiro Kotsuka

Managing Director and Secretary General, Union of Japanese Scientists and Engineers;
Vice-chair, Executive Committee

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I am the vice-chair of the executive committee of Dr. Kaoru Ishikawa's birth centenary commemorative project. My name is Kotsuka from JUSE.

On behalf of the executive committee, I would like to welcome you all to this international symposium as part of the commemoration project. We are glad that we have so many people with us, including those people who were invited and those people who have paid to attend. There are 260 people with us this morning from Japan and abroad. Thank you very much for coming.

As was already mentioned by Dr. Kume, this symposium is being held in order for us to renew recognition of Prof. Ishikawa's great achievements and his personal characteristics, and for us to think about what needs to be done to further promote TQM and QC circle activities.

Today's speakers are all followers of Prof. Ishikawa from Japan and abroad and are people who are involved in TQM and QC circle activities. There will be lectures and a panel discussion.

There are two parts to today's program: Part A and Part B. Part A is about Dr. Kaoru Ishikawa's great achievements and his personal characteristics. Six speakers will make presentations, which will be followed by a panel discussion.

Part B is about what should be done for the further development of TQM and QC circles. There will be one keynote speech followed by a panel discussion. At the end, Dr. Kano, who serves as the chair of Executive committee for this project, will wrap up this international symposium. Simultaneous interpretation services are available.

I would like to conclude this orientation for International Symposium on Dr. Kaoru Ishikawa Birth Centenary Commemoration, by hoping that this symposium provides opportunities for us to renew our recognition of the teachings of QC by Prof. Ishikawa as well as provide us with an impetus for the further development of QC.

This concludes my orientation. Thank you very much for your close attention.