

IS-MPMI Reporter

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The deadline for submitting items for the next issue is January 24, 2014.

Share your news, accomplishments, and upcoming meeting details with your colleagues. Submit articles, announcements, and any ideas you may have for the next issue. You can send an e-mail (ismpireportereditor@scisoc.org) or submit your item online (www.ismpminet.org/newsletter/submissionform.asp).

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Sophien Kamoun,
President

A Letter from the President

A Most Honorable Legacy

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This issue brings with it very sad news. On September 28, my friend and colleague Professor **Ko Shimamoto** passed away at the age of 63 following a recent illness. Ko made notable contributions to the fields of flowering and plant immunity that brought him respect and recognition worldwide. He was also renowned for his kind and gentle character.

We will remember Ko for his service as the chair and main organizer of the XV International Congress of Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions that was held in Kyoto in 2012. During the congress, Ko was already struggling with illness, yet he labored hard to ensure that the event was a memorable success. And what a success it was. Despite the setback due to the tsunami of March 11, 2011, Ko and his co-organizers delivered one of the best organized and most exciting congresses in recent memory.



Dr. Ko Shimamoto



Dr. Ko Shimamoto presents at the XV International Congress in Kyoto in 2012.

International Society for Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions (IS-MPMI) Director **Ken Shirasu** and I have expressed the condolences of the MPMI community to Ko's family, friends, and many colleagues in the plant biology world in Japan and elsewhere. We will honor Professor Ko Shimamoto and his contributions at IS-MPMI's XVI International Congress in Rhodes, Greece. In this issue of the *IS-MPMI Reporter*, Ko's colleagues **Yoji Kawano** and **Tsutomu Kawasaki** wrote a touching memorial that is also available in Japanese. They highlight Ko's contributions to our science as well as to other fields of plant biology. They emphasize his dedication to his students and his role as

an inspiring and caring mentor. These comments should give us all pause for thought. Isn't mentorship of young scientists the most honorable legacy we could aspire to? Ko's exemplary tutelage of young scientists is an inspiration to all of us.

Ko played a critical role in promoting and developing MPMI research in Asia. The Kyoto Congress, which he so successfully organized, was the first that our society held in Asia. Asian scientists are playing an ever-increasing role in the science of plant-microbe interactions. About one-fifth of the plenary speakers selected by **Eris Tjamos** and the organizers of the XVI International Congress are either based in Asia or are of Asian origin. This issue of the *IS-MPMI Reporter* includes summaries by **Brad Day** and **Andrew Bent** about major international conferences that took place in Beijing last August. We will remember Ko for his science and his caring mentorship, but his legacy also includes his pioneering role in promoting and expanding the global reach of the MPMI community. ■