Obituary

Dr. Naoichi Inoue, an honorary member of our Society and a professor emeritus of Hokkaido University, passed away on November 23, 1998, in Ome City, Tokyo. He was 88 years old.

Dr. Naoichi Inoue was born on March 14, 1910 in Sapporo. After graduating from the Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, Hokkaido Imperial University (1934), he became an instructor of the Department (1934) and then a professor of The Hakodate College of Fisheries (1937). In the same year, he was invited to be a lecturer of the Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, Hokkaido Imperial University (1937). He then became an associate professor of the Department (1950), following which he was inaugurated as the first professor of the new Department of Fishing Science, Faculty of Fisheries, Hokkaido University (1950). In 1973, he retired from the University and became a professor emeritus.

Dr. Inoue studied widely, encompassing fields such as oceanography, agricultural physics, meteorology and fisheries. During his distinguished career he produced many outstanding achievements. The development and construction of diving vehicles and the research that those vehicles facilitated render his name immortal. Dr. Inoue held the firm belief that in order to study fishing grounds, in context with the surrounding environment, it is necessary to study them from a laboratory submerged in the sea. He thus designed the bathysphere Kuroshio in 1951 and her remodeled successor, the research submersible Kuroshio, in 1960. Dr. Inoue and his colleagues dived some 729 times to undertake their research in the coastal seas of Japan. During those dives they discovered large flocculent particles and called them “marine snow”.

Dr. Inoue also studied the ecological behavior of fishes and plankton, scallop resources, and underwater optics. In 1977, he received the Award of Merit in Fisheries Science for those studies. He was also recommended as an honorary member of our Society in 1990.

Dr. Inoue held simultaneously a number of posts on committees concerning fisheries and the marine environments of Hokkaido and Hakodate City. He also played an important role in the development of domestic industry. In May 1982, he was decorated with Third Order of Merit with the Semi-Grand Cordon of the Rising Sun.

I admire Dr. Naoichi Inoue’s achievements and sincerely express my condolences to his family.

Hideo Miyake
Professor of Hokkaido University