

PROFESSOR KIYOHUMI YUMOTO (1951-2019): EXIT OF A LEGEND

Professor Yumoto teaching at the African regional 'International Heliophysical Year' School AFRIS, November 2008, Enugu, Nigeria



Exit of Professor Kiyohumi YUMOTO from this world at 06:21 Japanese Standard Time on 7th October 2019 drew the curtain on a life well spent for humanity and science. A life that was characterized with substance and impartation. It has taken me time to respond to the news as I have remained shocked with the heavy news of the inevitable passing away of a such a great man who has touched several lives, including mine, positively.

His life was an example of commitment to science of space weather and ionosphere in general. He travelled far and wide propagating the message of the science for which he lived. He was a great team player. He was a man who followed his instinct with great faith, he believed in breaking new frontiers and set up the famous 96 Magnetic Meridian chain and equatorial chain in Africa between 2006 and 2012. This was after the highly successful Circum-pan Pacific Magnetometer Network was set up by him while at Nagoya University. In all, he set up over 70 magnetometers worldwide during his fulfilled career.

He was indeed the first of the international scientists to set up a network of ground observational facility known as Magnetic Data Acquisition System MAGDAS in Africa, during the United Nations' endorsed International Heliophysical Year program (2005-2009). There were enough discouraging factors to discourage installations in Africa as at 2006. Professor Yumoto ignored negative reports and confronted obvious difficulties as he set up Magnetometers in Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Zambia and South Africa. He successfully set up the first African MAGDAS capacity building school in Nigeria in 2011; other editions later held in Indonesia and Cote d'Ivoire. His outstanding contributions to our science had helped to change the landscape of space weather research in Africa and global community at large.

He was a master planner, a great mentor, a pacesetter, and a scientist par excellence. He was one of the founding fellows of the African Geophysical Society, AGS. It is of note, that the initial constitution of the AGS was drafted in 2008 by me when Professor

Yumoto hosted me as a visiting scientist on sabbatical at his then Space Environment Research Center, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan. He was passionate about knowledge sharing and transfer. He created the International Center for Space Weather Science and Education ICSWSE (iku-Sei). He was a scientific giant who lent his shoulders to many of us to stand tall today. Though gone away from our midst, he lives forever in the hearts of those of us whom he has touched positively. Ironically, Kiyohumi Yumoto live forever in our hearts.

At this moment, his life has become a positive lesson to us. His legacies outlive him and so his name will continue to vibrate in literatures and in scientific meetings. Adieu Yumoto Sensei.

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