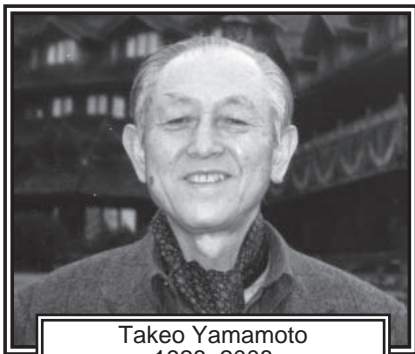


In Memoriam



Takeo Yamamoto
1928–2008

Takeo Yamamoto died suddenly on November 5 due to a severe intestinal obstruction. Only five days earlier he had visited NHK Labs to discuss new trends in loudspeaker technology. Kimio Hamasaki, says that Yamamoto-san seemed very fine during their discussions, and he was shocked and saddened by the news.

Yamamoto grew up in Tokyo. He received a bachelor's degree in 1951 and a Ph.D. in engineering in 1962 from Tokyo University. After graduating he joined NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) and started working as a researcher in NHK Technical Research Laboratories.

In 1955 he designed the 2S-305 monitoring speaker system, which was manufactured by Mitsubishi Electric and is still being used in many sound monitoring rooms throughout Japan. In 1965 he designed the DL-103 MC stereo phono cartridge for FM broadcasting. The DL-103, which is manufactured by Denon, is also still being used in many broadcasting stations in Japan.

In 1972 he joined Pioneer Corporation to form the Acoustic Research & Development Laboratory. Later that year he was appointed director of the laboratory. In 1973 he was promoted to managing director in charge of research and development. It was during this time that he supervised the development of the laser disc and laser disc player. In 1975 he launched the project that commissioned Bart Locanthi to develop a series of TAD (Technical Audio Devices) monitoring loudspeaker systems.

In 1991 Yamamoto became the executive vice president and representative director to lead engineers at Pioneer Corporation in the development of new AV technology. He proposed the sampling frequency of 96 kHz to AES Technical Committee SC-02-02 at the AES 96th Convention held in Amsterdam in 1994. That same year at the 97th Convention in San Francisco he presented the technical paper "Proposal of 96 kHz Sampling Digital Audio" and gave a demonstration of digital audio.

He resigned from Pioneer Corporation as executive vice president in 1994. He was an innovative researcher and a tireless, enthusiastic supporter of the AES. He served as an AES governor and chair of the AES Japan Section. He organized numerous meetings and regional conventions. Yamamoto received an AES Fellowship Award in 1977, Board of Governors Awards in 1989 and 1996, and the AES Silver Medal in 2004.

In addition to being a brilliant international ambassador promoting innovations in advanced audio technologies, Yamamoto-san was a kind man who offered enthusiastic assistance to anyone who sought his counsel and guidance. He loved the AES and what it represents and how it brings people together from all parts of the world.

Takeo Yamamoto loved teaching and sharing his vast knowledge with younger generations. For ten years (1995-2005) he was appointed to Adjunct Professorship at McGill University's Graduate Program in Sound Recording to lecture on advanced topics in audio and video technology and to enrich international collaboration.

This is a very sad time for his wife Kimiko, daughters Fusami and Tomomi, and the entire family, to whom we offer our heartfelt sympathy. Takeo Yamamoto will be greatly missed by all of us who knew him during his more than 50-year career in audio.

Bike H. Suzuki
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