

Thanks to the Late Professor Wu Chengyi

Kunio Iwatsuki

Professor emeritus, the University of Tokyo; Director emeritus, Museum of Nature and Human Activities, Hyogo.

I would start this memorial article to the late Professor Wu Chengyi with a personal relationship between him and myself. I actually met with him at the first time in 1980 when he visited Japan under then newly formed scholar exchange programme in the mutual collaboration between the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Sciences. I was then sent to China in this bilateral scholar exchange system. Before the mutual collaboration project was signed between the above two organizations, we already established our own cultural collaboration programme of the scientists between Kunming and Kyoto, and scholar exchange programme was actively on the way; Professors Zang Mu and Wu Sugong from Kunming Institute of Botany were invited to Kyoto for their botanical works in 1980 and 1981, respectively.

The first visit of Professor Wu Chengyi to Japan was for just a couple of weeks, and he traveled from Tokyo to the Kyoto area in that brief visit. I was accompanied with him throughout his stay in Japan that time, and actually I had an honor of his stay at my house while he was in Kyoto. In Kyoto, we had even a field observation in Kibune-Kurama area with Professor Siro Kitamura, already retired professor emeritus at that time.

Under a warm atmosphere expecting to develop a mutual collaboration between KIB and Japanese botanists, I first visited Kunming in December, 1980. It was just after the so-called cultural revolution became to the end, and the judge was reported on TV for the four key persons of that revolution. Since then, actually, the collaboration in biodiversity research was promoted between the botanists in both countries,



1986年，东京大学综合资料馆内（右起：大场秀章、许建昌、吴征镒、原宽、岩槻邦男）



2007年8月14日，在昆明拜访吴教授（左岩槻邦男，右武素功）



and Professor Wu Chengyi's contribution in this area was really great. I myself visited China more than 20 times in all, and in most of these visits I was in Kunming. Nearly every time in Kunming, I could have chances to be with Professor Wu, in addition to some other chances to see him in various places on the earth outside China. And, I learned a lot from him in these valuable occasions.

I myself am a pteridologist in a strict sense, and had close collaboration in Kunming with Professor Wu Su-gong, who served as an assistant to Professor Wu Chengyi for more than half a century since they were in Beijing. It is quite a pity to note that Professor Wu Sugong also passed away in the same year as Professor Wu Chengyi, as if Wu Sugong examined the way for Wu Chengyi to serve as a good guide in the World of Hades. I believe that the two Wus are now together in the West Heaven, or the Paradise, full of flowers and green, and enjoy botany in such an ideal place.

Actual scientific collaboration was with Professor Wu Sugong and his group for my work in China. Not only in various places in Yunnan province, we made joint field surveys with Wu Sugong and his colleagues also in Szechuan (Mt Omei) and Hainan, and we had chances to share our scientific data to each other with actual discussions in person in the herbaria in Kunming, Beijing, Kyoto and Tokyo. We could have successful contributions to our knowledge of the pteridology in East Asia, and such fruitful results were based on a warm and continuous administrative support from Professor Wu Chengyi.

There were a variety of difficulty to be overcome for us to promote our collaboration in biodiversity research, and we could always trust Professor Wu Chengyi's ideal treatment with his influence in administration. He himself continued his botanical work until he left our world, and I could meet him to visit his house even in his last years nearly every time when I visited Kunming.

It should not be my duty to introduce the whole work of Professor Wu Chengyi in details, for his great contributions to botany should be summarized by the Chinese colleagues actually worked in close collaboration with him. And, I would note briefly about his honor to be awarded the International Cosmos Prize.

Professor Wu Chengyi is the recipient of the International Cosmos Prize in 1999. I found that he was not very popular at that time even among the plant taxonomists in the global conspectus, and this was true for all the Chinese botany at that time. I understood that the award of this prize let him know better to the western biologists.

The International Cosmos Prize is awarded for excellent research and other endeavors recognized as contributing to a significant understanding of the relationships among living organisms, the independence of life and the global environment, and the common nature integrating these relationships. The excellence should be characterized by a global perspective under the concepts and principles of 'The Harmonious Coexistence between Nature and Mankind'. The selection of recipient is based on the conditions of 1) inclusive and integrated methodology and approach, in contrast to analytic and reductive methodologies, 2) a global perspective, and 3) a long-term vision which leads to further developments, rather than solutions to limited problems.

Concerning to the item 2) above, Professor Wu's works are mostly on the Chinese plants, but the International Cosmos Prize explains that the contribution must have universal significance or applicability,



if the focus is on a particular phenomenon or specific area. Actually, Professor Wu worked mostly on Chinese plants but his contributions had a great impact to the understanding of plant worlds in global conspectus. Professor Wu made detailed and accurate observations on many groups of Chinese plants and edited floristic revisions for many taxa, and then drew up various phytogeographic ideas to understand the plant world from his standpoint mostly on Chinese plants. We could learn from him on the actual results of his observations on the facts of plants as well as on the technological contributions to develop his own botanical concept.

Research on plant diversity often focus on a specific area to analyze the particular fact carefully, but the excellent researches in this area are proceeded with global conspectus, as every species of plants is directly or indirectly related to all the other species on the earth. Professor Wu Chengyi contributed a lot to the understanding of plant world based on his detailed research of the Chinese members.

I would show my respectful condolence to the death of our great botanist, Professor Wu Chengyi, and his beloved family members.

向已故的吴征镒教授致谢

岩槻邦男

日本东京大学，名誉教授；兵库县自然和人类活动博物馆，名誉主任。

我想先从和已故吴征镒教授之间的私人交往追忆起。我第一次见到吴征镒教授是在1980年，他是通过中国科学院和日本学术振兴会新建立的学者交流项目到日本访学，后来我也因该学者交流项目被派往中国。事实上，在中国科学院和日本学术振兴会正式签署科研项目合作之前，我们就已经在昆明和京都两地之间建立起了科学家间的学术交流，学者互访计划随后也开展起来。来自昆明植物研究所的臧穆教授和武素功教授分别于1980年和1981年受邀到京都开展植物学研究工作。

吴征镒教授第一次到日本只停留了几个星期，在东京和京都做短暂访问，他访问日本期间由我全程陪同。当他在京都期间，我也有幸邀请他住在我家里，业已退休的北村四郎教授也和我一道陪同吴征镒教授在贵船-鞍马（Kibune-Kuram）做了短暂的野外考察。

在昆明植物研究所和日本植物学家间建立起的良好的学术合作氛围下，我于1980年12月第一次到访昆明，那时候“文化大革命”刚刚结束，电视上正播出“四人帮”受到审判的节目。从那时起，两国植物学家在生物多样性研究方面的交流合作得到促进，吴征镒教授在其中发挥了极为重要的作用。我至今到访中国已超过20余次，大多数是访问昆明植物研究所，几乎每次到昆明，我都有幸与吴征镒教授进行面对面的交流，在中国以外也有过多次会面，这些宝贵的学习机会让我受益匪浅。

严格来说，我是一个蕨类植物学家，在昆明和武素功教授的合作更为密切。从他们一起在北京开始，半个多世纪以来武素功教授都担任吴征镒教授的助手。遗憾的是武素功教授和吴征镒教授同一年相继去世，先离开的武素功教授或许是要去另一个世界为吴征镒教授探路吧，我想他们两位正在一个遍地鲜花和植物的天堂或伊甸园继续沉醉于植物学研究中吧。

我与武素功教授和他的团队在中国开展了很多科研合作，我们不只在云南的很多地方，在四川



(峨眉山)和海南也进行过多次联合野外考察。我们在昆明、北京、东京和京都各大标本馆之间共享科研数据,面对面开展讨论交流,在东亚蕨类植物研究方面取得了重要进展,这些合作成果离不开吴征镒教授的鼎力支持。

在推进生物多样性研究合作时我们遇到过各种各样的困难,吴征镒教授总是能够通过有效的方式以及他广泛的影响力协助我们化解问题。吴征镒教授在去世前都在坚持做着他的研究工作,我每次到昆明时也都会去拜访他。

我在这里就不过多阐述吴征镒教授的整个工作,他在植物学上的伟大成就更适合由曾经和他并肩合作的中国同事们来总结。我只想简要地介绍一下吴征镒教授在COSMOS国际大奖中所获得的荣誉。

吴征镒教授是1999年COSMOS国际大奖的获得者。当时,中国的植物学研究并未得到世界的重视,吴征镒教授获奖前在全球植物分类学界也并不出名,这个奖项让他终被更多的西方的植物学家所获知。

COSMOS国际大奖旨在奖励那些为理解生物体之间、个体与全球环境之间关系以及整合这些关系共同性质做出杰出贡献的科学家。这些卓越的成果需基于“人与自然的和谐共处”的原则并立足于全球化的视角。获奖人遴选的标准:1)多尺度和集成性方法和途径,对比解析和还原的方法和途径;2)全球化视角;3)持续发展的长远视角,而不是局限于某一问题的解决方案。

关于第二项,吴教授主要研究的是中国的植物资源,但COSMOS国际奖解释说,如果研究集中于某一特定现象或区域,其贡献也必须具有普遍意义或适用性。实际上,虽然吴教授的研究范围主要在中国,但他的研究成果很大程度上影响了全球植物学领域的发展。吴教授详细、准确地描述并修订了许多植物类群,在植物区系地理学方面,形成了独创性的区系地理研究方法和学术思想,极大地扩展了植物学领域的认知。他在植物学研究中得出的研究成果以及他发展自己植物学研究理论的方法都值得我们学习。

对植物多样性的研究往往集中于特定的领域以能够详细分析具体的情况,但优秀的研究者将这一领域的研究扩展到全球范围,每一种植物都直接或间接地与地球上其他物种相关。吴征镒教授对中国植物资源的详细研究,为整个植物学领域的研究发展做出了杰出贡献。我对我们伟大植物学家吴征镒教授的逝世感到十分惋惜,对他的家人表示深切的慰问。

(翻译:杨雅)

