Professor Mutsuto Kawahara, who has recently turned 60 years young is currently Chairman of the Department of Civil Engineering at Chuo University. He has played an active part in many fields of research during the last few decades. His distinguished achievements with the Finite Element Method (FEM) have contributed to progress in computational fluid dynamics and computational structural mechanics, to mention but two fields of endeavor.

He is a pioneer and world-class leader in the field of computational methods, especially FEM.

It was only a few decades ago that people believed that only experiments using models could provide useful engineering information. Professor Kawahara and his troops managed through new models and algorithmic developments to capitalize on state-of-the-art computers and lay important foundations for computational civil engineering. Their pioneering work popularized the importance of FEM as a tool of choice for such computations.

Professor Kawahara never gets tired of reminding his students that “what we do is not analysis, but synthesis”. Thus, in his specialization field, Professor Kawahara’s laboratory has carried out research not only in “analysis” mode but also in “synthesis” mode to control phenomena and identify major parameters. To Professor Kawahara, simulation stops at nothing.

This special issue of IJCFD that I have the honor to edit is just a minor token of appreciation to Professor Mutsuto Kawahara from his numerous colleagues all over the globe. It attests to the variety of research fields where his talent, enthusiasm and powers of stimulation have opened new avenues of productive collaboration and research in a truly international fashion.

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ISSN 1061-8562 print ISSN 1029-0257 online © 2003 Taylor & Francis Ltd
DOI: 10.1080/1061856031000120637


Professor Kawahara

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- 1966: Graduated from Department of Civil Engineering of Waseda University
- 1971: Finished a Doctoral Program at the Graduate School of Waseda University
- 1972: Lecturer at Chuo University
- 1973: Doctor of Engineering
- 1974: Assistant Professor at Chuo University
- 1983: Professor at Chuo University