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LAUDATIO ON THE 70TH BIRTHDAY OF PROFESSOR EMERITA KAZUE FUJIWARA

by Elgene BOX



The name Fujiwara (藤原) is based on 'fuji' (藤), the Japanese name of indigenous *Wisteria floribunda*, and has nothing to do with Mt. Fuji (富士, = wealthy samurai). Fujiwara (meaning "wisteria field") was actually an honorific, bestowed by the emperor Tenji upon Nakatomi-no Katamari (614-669), whose descendants then took Fujiwara as the name of their clan. From the 9th to 12th century, the Fujiwara clan was the most powerful political force in Japan, naming emperors and generally running the government. Even as late as the 19th century, the wife of the Emperor Meiji was a Fujiwara descendant. To this day Fujiwara remains one of the more common and most respected family names in Japan. And 'fuji', along with its alternate pronunciation 'tō' (like English 'toe'; only in combinations), still appears in a surprising number

of common Japanese family names, such as Fujimori (藤森), Fujita (藤田), Itō (伊藤) and Satō (佐藤).

Fujiwara Kazue (藤原一繪) was born in May 1944, in Shinjuku, on the then western edge of wartime Tōkyō, as it was being targeted by incendiary bombs designed to destroy vast areas of [mainly wooden] houses. It's hard to imagine a time when Kazue was not strong, but at that time she was not, and so her mother took her to Tōhoku (northeastern Japan), near Sendai, where the Fujiwara family is still numerous. As Japan recovered after the war, Kazue returned to the Tōkyō area to attend primary school in Tōkyō and in Chigasaki (Kanagawa Prefecture, down the coast from Yokohama). She also attended middle school in Chigasaki and graduated from high school in Hiratsuka (also in Kanagawa), in 1963.

In the same year Kazue entered Yokohama National University, where she studied general biology but was also fond of road rallies. During this time she met and decided to work with the young [associate] professor Akira Miyawaki, who had relatively few students at the time. She became interested in his ideas of vegetation study and, after graduating in 1967, became a high-school biology teacher in Fujisawa and Yokohama. She also continued, though, as a graduate researcher under Miyawaki in the Department of Biology and in 1969 received a stipend from the Centre National de Recherche Scientifique to study *terril* vegetation (and French) with Prof. Reinhold Linder in Lille (April-June 1969). After France she moved to Germany and joined the famous group of Reinhold Tüxen in Rinteln (July-September 1969), where she studied raised bogs and learned German. Kazue returned to Japan in the autumn of 1969, already the unusually cosmopolitan Japanese woman that we have always known.



Photo 1: Ozegahara wetlands, during the IAVS excursion of 1984 (with Kazue Fujiwara explaining to Anton Damman)

Back in Japan, Kazue applied her knowledge of wetlands to summarize the vegetation of the world-famous Ozegahara wetlands [Photo 1; 48,50; cf 62, 23]. During the 1970s, much of her time was spent describing vegetation in cities, prefectures and regions, with maps of actual and potential vegetation [49, 53], and writing on the creation of green environments in urban

areas, around factory sites, and on reclaimed land [e.g. 17, 18]. In 1973 Kazue obtained the official title Assistant Professor (助手) at Yokohama National University, where she continued working while also finishing her Doctor of Science degree (from Tōhoku University in Sendai, in February 1978). During this time she was also married, to a taxonomist, who took the family name Fujiwara. They built a house in Chigasaki and had two daughters, Yōko and Maki.

It had long been believed that the deciduous forest that covered almost all of Japan was in fact the potential vegetation, as shown on many maps. Working with remnants of original vegetation, as found mainly around Buddhist temples and Shintō shrines, Miyawaki and Fujiwara were able to demonstrate, however, that deciduous forests were actually only a natural secondary stage and that evergreen broad-leaved forest is the true potential vegetation of roughly the southern half of Japan, even as far north as the Tōkyō area [51]. One of Kazue's most important publications was the definitive photosociological classification and analysis of these evergreen broad-leaved forests of Japan, which appeared in four parts [19]. By this time Kazue was highly skilled in phytosociology and the fieldwork that it requires. As a result, one of her most useful contributions, coming also from this time, was her "Aims and Methods of Phytosociology". To this day this is still probably the best brief but sufficient explanation in English of how to do phytosociology [21] and was provided later in Japanese [25] and Chinese [35].

During the 1980s Kazue continued her work on wetlands [e.g. 20] and vegetation mapping [57, 52]. The largest project during the 1980s, however, was the exhaustive description and analysis of the "Vegetation of Japan" (10 volumes), [47], for which Kazue was a major field researcher and author of the text, tables and maps. She was also a main field researcher and co-author for a four-year project on the mangroves of Thailand [55, 22]. In 1985 she also began lecturing officially, as a part-time Lecturer at Hōsei University in Tōkyō. Finally in 1986 she obtained the position of Associate Professor (助教授 – *jokyōju*) at Yokohama National University, in the Department of Vegetation Science of the then recently established (1978) Institute of Environmental Science and Technology.

Kazue's first trip to China came in autumn 1985 and initiated a long and continuing study of Chinese evergreen broad-leaved forests and Chinese vegetation in general (see below). Most of the first studies were descriptive and in English [e.g. 12, 13]. In 1986 she also made a first visit to the warm-temperate coastal plain of the southeastern USA, where evergreen broad-leaved forests occur only sporadically, due to topography, the sand substrate, and fire. She began studying this region too [e.g. 6] and subsequently became a most knowledgeable and valuable member of the three-year Eastern North American Vegetation Survey (1988-90), funded by Japan and summarized by Miyawaki et al. (1994). In addition to planning and fieldwork, she played a major role in plant identification and vegetation analysis, and wrote chapters describing the evergreen broad-leaved forests and mangroves of the southeastern USA, in comparison with East Asia [27, 28].

In 1993, on the mandatory retirement of Prof. Miyawaki at age 65, Kazue was able to obtain his position as Professor (教授) of the Department of Vegetation Science. From this time on she quickly accumulated many graduate students, many from other parts of Asia. This led to more wide-ranging fieldwork (with the students), involving study of forests and their rehabilitation in Malaysia [2, 34, 3, 39]; Thailand [44, 61]; Myanmar [4]; and in other parts of tropical Asia [cf 24]; as well as in Bhutan, Nepal and China. One result was a first broad-scale

synthesis on "Ecosystems of Asia" [7]. Work with students also took Kazue to other continents, for fieldwork and vegetation analyses in Brazil [16] and Senegal [1]. She also continued comparative work in eastern North America [e.g. 29] and was a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Georgia in 1999.

An increase in the number of Chinese graduate students around 2000 led to more fieldwork in China and in [Chinese] Mongolia and Manchuria. This led to first vegetation descriptions and syntheses on *Fagus* forests of China [64, 65, 66]; on the widespread *Quercus mongolica* forests of northern China [66]; and on north-Chinese deciduous forests in general [63]. A major new project on "Integrated Vegetation Mapping in Asia" brought the opportunity for even wider-ranging field study in East Asia, including the Russian Far East (Primorye, Sakhalin, Kamchatka), central and northern Siberia (Yakutia), and dry areas of Central Asia (Dzungaria and the Tarim Basin). This work resulted in a major synthesis of East Asian vegetation [26] as well as syntheses on cool-temperate deciduous forests [58, 59, 69] and on warm-temperate *Quercus* forests [e.g. 68] (cf Figure 1).

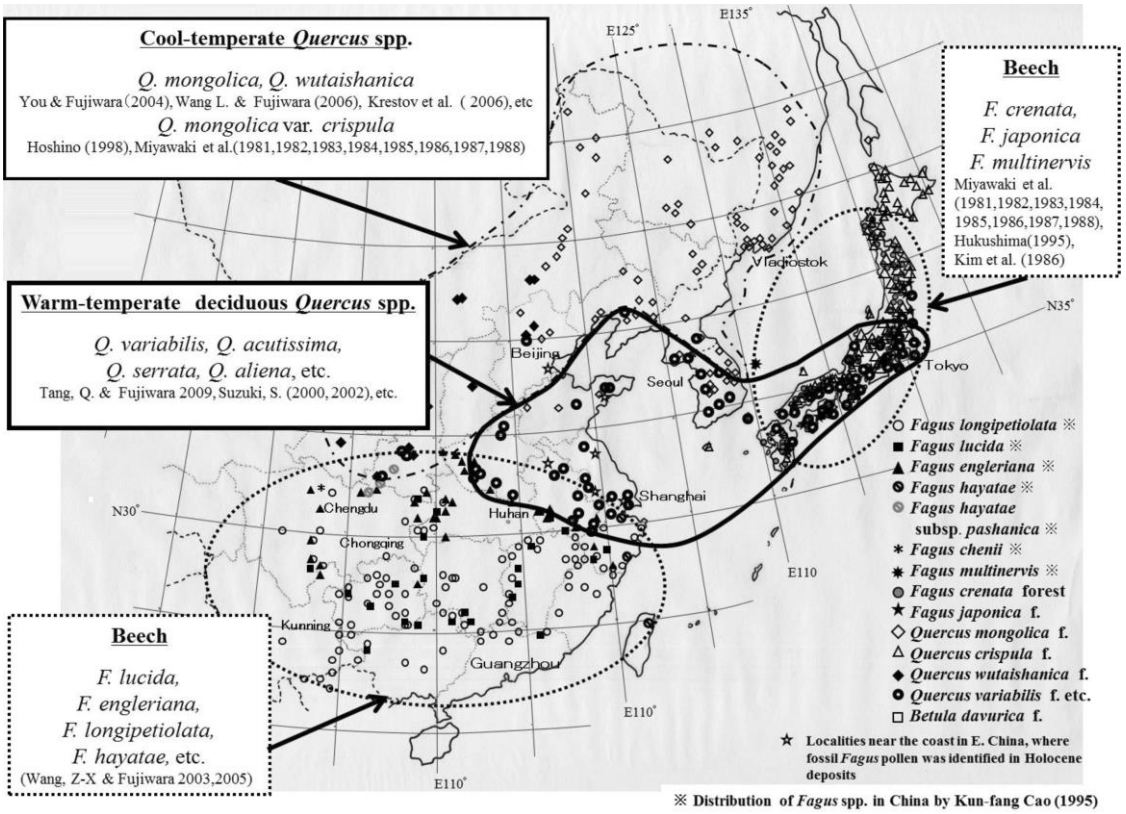


Figure 1: Areas of Cool-Temperate and Warm-Temperate Deciduous Broad-Leaved Forests in East Asia (from Fujiwara and Harada 2014)

One of Kazue's particular talents was her ability to identify timely topics and to organize appropriate special sessions at major national, regional and international meetings. At the INTECOL symposium in 1990 in Yokohama she organized a special session on evergreen broad-leaved forests and coordinated three other symposia, combining their proceedings into a book on "Forest Ecosystems of East and Southeast Asia" [14]. For the INTECOL meeting in 1998 (Firenze) she organized a special session on "Climate Change and Vegetation Shift", focusing on early evidence of vegetation responses to warming. For the International Botanical

Congress in 1999 (St. Louis), she organized a session on "Vegetation of Analogous Environments of the Northern versus Southern Hemisphere". In 2002, for the INTECOL meeting in Seoul, she organized a first session on "Ecology in Beech and Oak Forests", following it up 10 years later with "*Quercus* versus *Fagus* in Asian and other Temperate Deciduous Forests", for the annual IAVS meeting, also in Korea (Mokpo).

In addition to topical sessions, Kazue has also served on the organizing committees for the 1984 IAVS meeting, the 1990 INTECOL symposium, and the 1993 Botanical Congress, all held in Japan. In 2000 she was the overall organizer of the IAVS symposium in Nagano and its excursions throughout Japan. She was an IAVS Vice-President from 2000 through 2007, still serves on the IAVS Advisory Council (since 1994), and has a missed only one annual meeting since 1991. She also served as an INTECOL board member (2001-2008), has long been a major contributor to the Japanese Ecological Society, and has organized special sessions for them and for meetings of the East Asian Society for Ecology.



Photo 2: Organizing the planting of an environmental protection forest in Okayama, in 1990 (with Akira Miyawaki, Kazue Fujiwara, and Miroslav Grandtner, recognizable from left to right)

Throughout her long career Kazue has continued to write about and work in re-vegetation (Photo 2; e.g. 54, 32, 36]. When forced by the *teinen* (fixed years) system retire from the national university in 2010, Kazue moved to Yokohama City University, where she continues her vegetation study and re-vegetation work in various countries, especially China [e.g. 46] but also Nepal (since 2010), Turkey and most recently Indonesia. She first visited Kenya in 1990 in connection with world mapping (project of Shunji Murai, Tokyo University) and has studied its forests, for re-vegetation work, since 2006 [e.g. 43, 37, 38]. Using her extensive experience with Asian coastal vegetation [e.g. 40, 41, 30], Kazue and her students were also quick to study effects on coastline vegetation by the great tsunami events in the Indian Ocean in December 2004 [42] and in northeastern Japan in 2011 [32].

The potential for evergreen broad-leaved forests has often been a theme in Kazue's work, and this culminated in a new, recent project on warm-temperate deciduous forests. Tatsuō Kira (1949) had recognized that deciduous forests could be stable, zonal forests in the warm-temperate zone under certain conditions, and in 2010 Kazue organized a special session on this topic for the annual IAVS symposium, in Lyon. This resulted in a book on "Warm-Temperate Deciduous Forests around the Northern Hemisphere" [11], which included Kazue's syntheses of East Asian warm-temperate deciduous forests [31, 60], and comparison with counterparts in eastern North America and southern Europe.



Photo 3: Kazue Fujiwara, at an IAVS meeting in the 1990s (with Franco Pedrotti, Wolfgang Haber, Erika Pignatti, and Hartmut Dierschke, from left to right)

Kazue Fujiwara is perhaps best known as one of the world's foremost phytosociologists, adhering closely to classical standards and procedures but also able to use phytosociology in all kinds of environments worldwide and to apply it to vegetation analysis and rehabilitation efforts. She is also known for her extensive knowledge of the vegetation of the whole world, having studied vegetation in the field in about 50 countries or comparable regions, on all continents except Antarctica. She is a familiar figure at IAVS annual meetings (Photo 3) and field excursions (Photo 4). Her experience has made her a valuable author of cross-continental and global-scale comparisons and syntheses [e.g. 26, 29, 7, 8, 9].

Some of Kazue's publications include me as [alphabetic] first author because they were written in English. I can assure you that she provided as much input to those pieces as I did, sometimes more. She has certainly been a valuable co-author, critic and colleague. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kazue, publicly and most profoundly, as well as another honoree, Franco Pedrotti, and our Symposium organizer Dan Gafta (see Photo 5), for all I have learned from working with them, in the field, in writing and in scientific life in general.



Photo 4: Kazue Fujiwara, during the IAVS excursion in Baja California, 2010 (photo by Andy Greller)



Photo 5: Franco Pedrotti, Elgene Box, Dan Gafta and Kazue Fujiwara (from left to right), on Kyūshū, southern Japan (August 2012)

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