



On April 16, 2019, the Chemical Ecology field lost one pioneer and the Asia-Pacific Association of Chemical Ecologists (**APACE**) lost our society founder and our first president, Prof. Kenji Mori (森謙治). Prof. Mori passed away after battling against bile duct cancer in Tokyo, Japan.

Kenji Mori was born in Seoul, Korea, in 1935, and was the son of a Christian Japanese pastor. He obtained his B.Sc. (1957, agricultural chemistry), M.Sc. (1959, biochemistry), and Ph.D. (1962, organic chemistry) degrees from the University of Tokyo. He accepted a position as an Assistant Professor in 1962, was promoted to an Associate Professor in 1968, and then became a Full Professor in 1978. In 1995 he left the University of Tokyo and moved to the Science University of Tokyo as a Full Professor. His research interests include the enantioselective synthesis of pheromones and other biofunctional molecules, biotransformations, and chemical ecology. He has published over 1200 publications. His *h*-index score was 56, which is higher than more than 97.5% of researchers in the scientific field worldwide, with over 18344 citations (information digested from ResearchGate). In addition, his unique contribution in novel chemical syntheses of more than 100 species of insect pheromones have been widely adapted by the multi-billion dollar semiochemical industries globally in almost half of a century, which contribute tremendously to the “green chemistry” and environmental sound pest management practices. He has been honored with awards from the Japan Academy (in 1981 in the presence of the late Emperor Hirohito, Japan), the International Society of Chemical Ecology (Silver Medal in 1996, Czech Republic), the American Chemical Society (The Ernest Guenther Award in the Chemistry of Natural Products in 1999, USA), and the Asia-Pacific Association of Chemical Ecologists (Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013, Australia), *etc.*

As Prof. Walter Leal mentioned *the verb used in Japanese to “passed away” is ‘Nakunari Mashita (亡くなりました)’*, which may be translated into ‘to become nonexistent’. But for Prof. Mori, this would be a colossal mistranslation; he leaves behind a legacy of hundreds of students and worldwide collaborators who have contributed and will continue to contribute in academia and industry related to the fields of chemistry and chemical ecology. We all miss you, Prof. Kenji Mori sensei.

His official obituary, published by Japan’s biggest chemistry website (Chem-Station), can be shared at <https://www.chem-station.com/chemist-db/archives/2011/11/-kenji-mori.php>, though it is in Japanese.

By Junwei (Jerry) Zhu and the APACE-Mori Memorial Statement Committee