

In Memoriam:

Professor Atsuhiko Nishida (1936-2025)

Second President of the Asia Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS)



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Professor Atsuhiko Nishida, a pioneering figure in space physics and instrumental leader in the early development of the Asia Oceania Geosciences Society. Professor Nishida served the society with distinction during its formative years, holding the position of Vice-President in 2006 & 2009 and President in 2007 & 2008.

As the second President of AOGS, Professor Nishida provided steadfast leadership at a crucial time. The society was still in its incipient years, and it benefitted immensely from his generous service, keen insight, and dedication. A gifted administrator, he introduced processes and procedures that significantly streamlined AOGS's operations, laying a solid foundation for the society's continued growth.

He was also the President during a major milestone in AOGS history – the first time the society held its annual meeting outside of Singapore. AOGS2007 in Bangkok marked a bold step in expanding the society's regional reach and engagement, and Professor Nishida's leadership was key in making that transition a success.

His recruitment into the leadership of AOGS has become something of a legend among long-time members. In 2004, while heading up an escalator during the lunch period, Professor Nishida – always wearing his hearing aid – was asked by the then-President (Professor Wing-Huen Ip) who happened to be on his way down, if he would consider serving as President. He replied “Yes” without hesitation. Later, he humorously remarked that he was glad to be in, and even gladder to be out – unless AOGS were to become “An Old Gentlemen's Society”.

Beyond his invaluable service to AOGS, Professor Nishida was an internationally acclaimed scientist. Over a career spanning more than five decades, he made groundbreaking contributions to space science, particularly in the fields of magnetospheric, ionospheric, and interplanetary physics. His work has been recognized countless times by the global scientific community, and his legacy continues to inspire generations of researchers. He was awarded by Japanese Government the Person of Cultural Merits in 2012.

Professor Nishida's wisdom, wit, kindness, and dedication will be deeply missed. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues around the world.