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In memoriam – Professor Taik Sik Lee (1924–2000)



Professor Taik Sik Lee, an eminent scholar, educator, and leading researcher in the field of thermal and fluids engineering, died on February 1, 2000 in Seoul, Korea. Professor Lee was the President of the Korean Society of Mechanical Engineers (KSME) and a member of the National Academy of Science in Korea and the Korea Academy of Science and Technology. He was also

elected as a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). Since he joined the College of Engineering at Seoul National University in 1949, Professor Taik Sik Lee's contribution towards the founding of thermal science in Korea was enormous; especially through the socially and politically chaotic decades in the early stages of Korean democracy.

Professor Taik Sik Lee was born on July 8, 1924 in a southern countryside village of Korea. In 1948, he graduated from the Department of Mechanical Engineering of Seoul National University and began his career as a lecturer at the university. From 1956 to 1957, he conducted joint research with the University of Minnesota, and in 1969, he obtained his Ph.D. from Seoul National University. Also, from 1980 to 1983 he served as Dean of Engineering at Seoul National University. Professor Lee's career is full of a variety of achievements in many different aspects of engineering: he has serviced for many mechanical engineering and professional societies, he has organized conferences and seminars, both internationally and nationally, and he has served on many governmental and social committees established to guide engineering policies in positive manners. His dedication at many different levels has brought him numerous recognitions, including the Presidential Award and the Thermal Science Memorial Award from the Japan Society of Mechanical Engineering.

His achievement throughout 40 years of engagement with Seoul National University has set a cornerstone for the foundations of Korean thermal science and

engineering, particularly in the areas of heat transfer and fluid mechanics. Not only has he introduced science of heat transfer to the universities in Korea, but also has initiated and focused on the development of research activities in convection heat transfer. Among all of his truly unforgettable achievements, his contribution to Korean thermal science development has made a tremendous impact on Korean mechanical engineering.

Professor Taik Sik Lee was an admired scholar who has clearly shown how much one human being can impact society. All those who knew him will never forget his smile, which never disappeared throughout his life and will remind them of his encouragement and enthusiasm for their lives as engineers.

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