

In Memoriam

Yahiko Kambayashi

(1943–2004)



In great sadness we received notice of the sudden and untimely passing away of Prof. Yahiko Kambayashi on Friday, February 6, 2004.

Prof. Kambayashi, one of the leading international pioneers of database research, completed his Ph.D. at Kyoto University in 1970. In his early academic career, Prof. Kambayashi's research topics were logic circuits design, switching theory, and automata theory. From 1971 to 1973 he was a Visiting Research Associate at the University of Illinois, Urbana, where he developed a logic design method called the transduction method, which is now widely used by major US and Japanese logic design software vendors. After his return to Kyoto University as a faculty member in 1973, Prof. Kambayashi started to focus his research on databases. His major research results include an algorithm for the calculation of key dependencies, new inference rules for embedded multivalued dependencies, processing methods for cyclic queries, and new concurrency control mechanisms. In 1984, he became a professor at Kyushu University, where he extended his research area to geographic information systems, schema design in network data models, and concurrency control. In 1990, he was appointed as a professor at Kyoto University, where he conducted several very important practical research projects including studies of applications of database technologies to groupware and distance education systems. From April 2003, he served as Dean of the Graduate School of Informatics at Kyoto University.

Prof. Kambayashi published numerous articles in major journals and conferences. He also was the author and editor of many books and conference proceedings.

Prof. Kambayashi was also a great educator. A record number of Japanese and foreign students received M.S. and Ph.D. degrees under his supervision at Kyoto University and Kyushu University. Many of them are now serving as faculty members at universities in Japan and other countries. Prof. Kambayashi also taught courses at McGill University (1979), Kuwait University (1982) and Wuhan University (1984) as a visiting professor.

Prof. Kambayashi was an IEEE fellow, a trustee of the VLDB Endowment, a member of the SIGMOD Advisory Committee, a vice-chair of the ACM Tokyo/Japan Chapter, chair of the DASFAA Steering Committee, co-chair of the WISE Society and WISE Steering Committee, a member of the CODAS Steering Committee, a member of the ER Steering Committee, a member of the RIDE Steering Committee, a co-editor-in-chief of the World Wide Web Journal, an associate editor of ACM TODS, and a member of the editorial boards of several international journals. He was a winner of the ACM SIGMOD Contribution Award in 1995 for his many professional services in Japan and internationally.

Prof. Kambayashi helped to found the DEXA series of conferences and was one of the initiators of the DaWaK conference for which he served as General Chair from the very beginning in 1999.

Those who knew Prof. Kambayashi remember the energy and stamina with which he not only tackled his own research issues but also supported his colleagues, staff, students, collaborators and guests. Not only profound insights and expertise, but also his friendship and generous hospitality attracted many researchers and students.

Prof. Kambayashi is survived by his wife and two sons. His sudden leave is not only a tragic loss to his family but also a great loss to the whole international research community. Many of us will remember him as a friend, a mentor, a leader, an educator, and as our source of inspiration. We express our heartfelt condolence and our deepest sympathy to his family.

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Preface

Within the last few years, data warehousing and knowledge discovery technology has established itself as a key technology for enterprises that wish to improve the quality of the results obtained from data analysis, decision support, and the automatic extraction of knowledge from data.

The 6th International Conference on Data Warehousing and Knowledge Discovery (DaWaK 2004) continued a series of successful conferences dedicated to this topic. Its main objective was to bring together researchers and practitioners to discuss research issues and experience in developing and deploying data warehousing and knowledge discovery systems, applications, and solutions.

The conference focused on the logical and physical design of data warehousing and knowledge discovery systems. The scope of the papers covers the most recent and relevant topics in the areas of data cubes and queries, multidimensional data models, XML data mining, data semantics and clustering, association rules, data mining techniques, data analysis and discovery, query optimization, data cleansing, data warehouse design and maintenance, and applications. These proceedings contain the technical papers selected for presentation at the conference.

We received more than 100 papers, including 12 industrial papers, from over 33 countries, and the program committee finally selected 40 papers. The conference program included an invited talk by Kazuo Iwano, IBM Tokyo Research Lab, Japan.

We would like to thank the DEXA 2004 Workshop General Chairs (Prof. Roland Wagner, Prof. A Min Tjoa) and the Organizing Committee of the 15th International Conference on Database and Expert Systems Applications (DEXA 2004) for their support and their cooperation. Many thanks go to Ms. Gabriela Wagner for providing a great deal of assistance as well as to Mr. Raimund Angleitner-Flotzinger and Mr. Andreas Dreiling for administering the conference management software. We are very indebted to all the Program Committee members and external reviewers who reviewed the papers very carefully and in a timely manner. We would also like to thank all the authors who submitted their papers to DaWaK 2004; they provided us with an excellent technical program.

September 2004

Mukesh Mohania
Wolfram Wöß
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