

## Biographical Sketch of Professor Yukio Himiyama

Professor Yukio Himiyama was born in Japan in 1949. He received his B.S. in Physics at Tohoku University in Japan (1973), M.S. in Physics at UCLA (1975) and at Tohoku University (1976), and Ph.D. in Geography at King's College London (1980). He started his career at Hokkaido University of Education, the largest national education university in Japan, in 1980, and has



been Professor of Geography since 1989. At the university he assumed such posts as Director of Taisetsuzan Institute of Science (1997-2002), Director of Centre for Lifelong Learning (2004-2009), and Special Advisor to the President (2007-2010).

Outside the university he has been President/Vice-President of Society for Environmental Map Education (1998-present), and was President of Geographical Society of Hokkaido (2001-2005). He initiated Land Use Study Group in the Association of Japanese Geographers in 1985, and hosted the final symposium of IGU Study Group on Dynamics of Land Use Systems at his university in 1987. Later he founded IGU Study Group/Commission on Land Use/Cover Change (IGU-LUCC) in 1996, and chaired it till 2004, coordinating

many international meetings, publications and projects. Currently he is pursuing a major five-year international project on "Sustainable Land Use in Asia" (SLUAS) with his IGU-LUCC colleagues in Asia sponsored by Japan Society for Promotion of Sciences (JSPS).

Professor Himiyama has written or edited over 170 articles and books, not only in geography, but also in environmental sciences and in other related fields. He was Honorary Theme Editor of UNESCO/EOLSS *Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems* in charge of *Regional Sustainable Development Review: Japan* (1998-2008), which involved tens of articles consisting of several hundreds of thousands of words covering wide-range of environmental issues. The IGU-LUCC Atlas *Land Use/Cover Changes in Selected Regions in the World*, which he has been leading, counts the sixth volume this year. He has also been a member of editorial board of such journals as *Land Use Policy* (1984-present) and *Land Use Science* (2006-present).

The role he has been playing for promotion of geographical sciences and education in Japan, particularly at Science Council of Japan, is outstanding. He has been a member of IGU Japan National Committee (1997-present), Secretary General (2005-2008), and Chair (2008-present). Under his chairmanship Japan National Committee recently established Organizing Committee for IGU Kyoto Regional Conference 2013. He also chairs IHDP (International Human Dimensions Programme) Japan National Committee and GLP (Global Land Project) Japan National Committee. He is thus acting as coordinator of wide-ranging global change research communities in Japan and advisor to ICSU Japan National Committee. His deep involvement and rich experience in these international programmes will be extremely useful for the world geographical community at the time when it seeks its wider participation in global change research and education. The successful development of the Asahikawa Environmental Map Contest, which he initiated in 1991, indicates his enthusiasm on geographical and environmental education.

Professor Himiyama attended all the IGCs and most of the IGU Regional Conferences since 1980. These experiences, together with his involvement in other IGU activities such as OCEANS, IGU-IYPE and CCHD will further help him fulfil his duty as a Vice President.