Obituaries

Koichi Sadashige

SMPTE has just learned of the passing on December 17, 2002, of Koichi Sadashige, whose association with the Society spanned nearly five decades. Sadashige first presented at the SMPTE Conference in Chicago on April 20, 1955. The paper, "Control of Light Intensity in a Television Projector," was published in the August 1955 issue of the *SMPTE Journal*. In 1976, he received the Journal Award for "Overview of Time-Base Connection Techniques and Their Application." He continued to present numerous technical papers through the 1990s, while also serving on the SMPTE Board of Editors.

The Society initially formed an important technical committee on Video Recording on Reproduction Technology, V16, to ensure the interchangeability of recorded material between products of two competing manufacturers: RCA and Ampex. Sadashige participated in the committee from its early days in the 1960s, and when V16 branched out to work on the emerging technology of Helical Scan Recording, in the 1980s, he assumed chairmanship of that group. Two helical scan formats, SMPTE Type G and Type H, were the first to be internationally recognized. Since 1986, Sadashige had represented the U.S. on every IEC TC60 (now TC100) Technical committee; on several occasions, he was also the Chief U.S. Delegate. During the early 1990s, as digital video recording became the mainstay of broadcast and teleproduction recording, Sadashige chaired the V16 Working Group, establishing technical standards for SMPTE D-3, D-5, and D-7 digital television tape recorders. He continued to attend committee meetings and submit valuable contributions until the present.

Sadashige became a Fellow of the Society in 1980 and a Life Fellow in 1994.

Thomas L. Mann

Thomas L. Mann, 53, died in Palm Springs, CA, on December 19, 2002. Mann was president and CEO of Weyrcliffe-Century, Ltd., technology consulting and project management firm.

Prior to founding Weyrcliffe-Century, Mann served as vice-president, engineering and new technologies for USA Broadcasting, Inc., where he was responsible for the design and construction of a $26 million multistation, multicast Group Operations Center at Ontario, CA, the first large-scale digital centralcasting facility in the U.S., linking 13 owned television stations to one master control center for origination of 128 program streams. Prior to that he was a partner in Cavell, Mertz, and Davis, Inc., an engineering consulting firm based in Washington, DC. His tenure there included a design and construction management agreement with the Hearst Corp. under which Mann personally designed and managed the construction of the historic first three commercial digital television stations permitted by the FCC in the U.S.

Koichi Sadashige (front row, third from left) at a meeting of the V16 committee at Pasadena City College in the early 1990s.

A creative and innovative thinker, Mann's contribution to the industry will continue for years to come through the many broadcasters he has inspired and influenced.

Masao Sugimoto

Dr. Masao Sugimoto, president and founder of e-Box Corp., passed away on December 22, 2002, in Tokyo, Japan. Sugimoto was one of those rare people who define the term "industry visionary," first at NHK, where he spearheaded the development of digital television for Japan's public television network, and later at Pioneer Corp., where he led that company's development of DVD, Sugimoto had a profound and lasting impact on the delivery of high-quality digital audio/video entertainment to millions of consumers worldwide.

It is a testament to his character and intellect that he could, by a few carefully chosen words, win support for his ideas from industry leaders around the globe. Over the course of his career, Sugimoto gained the admiration, affection, and respect of everyone from engineers to CEOs within the consumer electronics, motion picture, cable, satellite, and terrestrial television industries. It was his vision to form the e-Box consortium, composed of Pioneer, Sharp, National Semiconductor, Sigma Designs, CMC Magnetics, iVAST, and Modern Video Film, to provide cable operators with a new digital cable solution, based on MPEG-4 technology.