

Preface to the fifth Takagi Lectures

The Takagi Lectures are the first series of lectures in mathematics to be crowned with a Japanese mathematician's name.

The lectures bear the name of the creator of Class Field Theory, Professor Teiji Takagi (1875–1960). In Japan, he is known also as the founder of the Japanese School of modern mathematics (see Miyake's article [2]). Internationally, he served as the first Fields Medal Committee Members in 1936 together with G. D. Birkhoff, É. Cartan, C. Carathéodory, and F. Severi.

The Mathematical Society of Japan (MSJ) inaugurated the Takagi Lectures as research survey lectures at the highest level by the finest contemporary mathematicians. The lectures are intended for a wide range of mathematicians, and are to be held twice a year. The first Takagi Lectures took place in November 2006 at RIMS, Kyoto, with the distinguished lecturers, S. Bloch, P.-L. Lions, S. Smale and C. Voisin. The MSJ decided to use the surplus from the International Congress of Mathematicians, which was held in Kyoto in 1990, to partially support the funding of the Takagi Lectures.

The fifth Takagi Lectures are to be held in cooperation with the University of Tokyo on October 4 and 5 in 2008 with the distinguished lecturers, J.-P. Bourguignon, É. Ghys, M. Kontsevich and N. Nekrasov. The fifth Takagi Lectures will take place in celebration of the IHÉS' 50th anniversary, and they are partially supported by the French–Japanese Scientific Forum.

The lecture notes of the Takagi Lectures are to be published by the *Japanese Journal of Mathematics* (JJM). It is the oldest continuously published mathematical journal in Japan (founded in 1924) and its 3rd series was relaunched in 2006 as a mathematical journal of research survey articles of the highest scientific level in cooperation with Springer. The new editors of JJM, Y. Kawahigashi, H. Nakajima, K. Ono, T. Saito and I are also the organizers of the Takagi Lectures. The videos of the lectures will be available on the Internet.

This scheme of the Takagi Lectures is intended to enhance its mission to continue the advancement of mathematics, not only in Japan but also in the whole world.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the distinguished lecturers and all those who have supported our endeavors. I hope that the Takagi Lectures will gain the respect of a worldwide audience and will continue to promote future progress in mathematics.

Toshiyuki Kobayashi
The University of Tokyo



Teiji Takagi (1875–1960)

Biography of Teiji Takagi

- 1875.4.21 Born in Gifu Prefecture, Japan
 - 1894 Entered the Department of Mathematics, Imperial University of Tokyo
 - 1897 Entered the Graduate School of the same university
 - 1898–1901 Studied in Berlin and Göttingen
 - 1903 Received the degree of Doctor of Science from the Imperial University of Tokyo
 - 1904 Appointed Professor at the Imperial University of Tokyo
 - 1920 Published his main paper on the class field theory
 - 1925 Elected Member of the Imperial Academy of Japan
 - 1936 Served on the 1st Fields Medal Committee
 - 1938 Published the book *A Course on Analysis* (in Japanese)
 - 1940 Received Culture Medal
 - 1960.2.28 Died at the Hospital of Tokyo University
- Decorated posthumously with the Order of the Rising Sun of the First Grade

References

- [1] T. Kobayashi, On the establishment of the Takagi Lectures. *Japan. J. Math.*, **2** (2007), 145–148.
- [2] K. Miyake, Teiji Takagi, Founder of the Japanese School of Modern Mathematics. *Japan. J. Math.*, **2** (2007), 151–164.