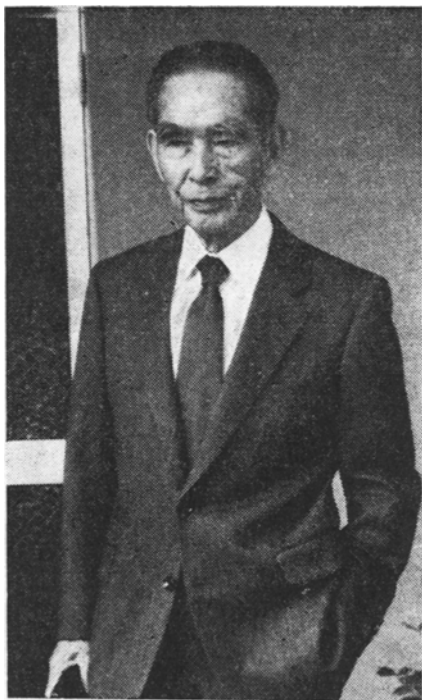


Ninety years of Professor Dr. Hitoshi Kihara



*Professor Kihara, the world-wide known Japanese Geneticist, foreign member of the Editorial Board of *Biologia Plantarum*, has reached in this year this rare anniversary in full activity and in admirable mental vigour. He was born in Tokyo on the 21st October 1893 and graduated from the Hokaido University in Sapporo in 1918. After a brief period he became the Assistant of the famous Kyoto University, where he obtained his Doctor's degree in 1924. He became Professor at the Faculty of Agriculture and he stayed in this capacity until the age limit in 1956. In the period between 1955 and 1969 Professor Kihara acted as Director of the National Institute of Japan in Mishima. In 1942 he founded the Kihara Institute for Biological Research in Kyoto, in 1949 he organized the Mishima Branch of*

this Institute, which in 1978 was moved to its present seat in Yokohama.

Professor Kihara also exerted extensive activity in other institutions. Thus, from 1960 to 1963 he was Trustee of the International Rice Research Institute and Commissioner of the Atomic Energy Commission, in 1962 he held the post of Vice-President of the Japanese UNESCO Commission, and between the years 1961 and 1968 he worked as Director of the Plant Virus Institute of the University of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Professor Kihara took part in the activities of innumerable international symposia and congresses, among others, as a Vice-President of the 9th International Congress of Genetics Symposium in Tokyo and of the 1st International Wheat Genetics Symposium, and as President of the 12th International Congress of Genetics in Tokyo in 1968.

This significant work has been appreciated by the Japanese as well as international institutions. Professor Kihara has been awarded the Membership of the Japanese Academy in 1943, the Order of Cultural Merits 1948, the First Order of Merit 1975, he has received Honorary Doctorate of the Uppsala University, and of the McGill University in Canada. He is a Honorary Member of many foreign Academies: of the Royal Danish Academy of Science, of the National Academy of Sciences in the U.S.A., of the American Academy of Arts and Science, of the Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina, of the Lenin

Academy of Agricultural Science in the U.S.S.R. and of many scientific societies all over the world.

Of many activities of prof. Kihara, one typical of this distinguished scientist, should not be omitted. He is a famous sportsman, who acted as Chef de Mission of the Japanese Winter Olympic Team at the 8th Olympic Winter Games. He attended the first meeting of the Board of Trustees of the IRRI in 1960 and he held the same function at the 9th Olympic Games.

The scientific activity of Professor Kihara is extraordinarily extensive. The most famous is his study of genome analysis of various plants and search of the phylogeny of Triticum. At the present time, Professor Kihara takes particular interest in the heredity of helical structures.

The life-long devotion of Professor H. Kihara to science and his outstanding achievements over many years are surely a stimulating example to all young physiologists.

M. SOSNA