

JAMI SPEECH

President Kojima, members of the Mathematical Society of Japan,
Johns Hopkins colleagues:

We are delighted, and also very much honored, that you have given us this award. "Us" means of course, JAMI. To my right are three of the four American founders of JAMI. The fourth is the Japanese-American Jun-Ichi Igusa; I think he would be here now if he were ten years younger.

I said "honored." To see why, you need only look at the previous prize-winners. Since these two people are well-known to you, I will give you my personal perspective on them. First was Taniguchi Toyosaburo. It was a Taniguchi Symposium that first brought me to Japan. Next was Friedrich Hirzebruch. I was at Max-Planck-Institut in Fall, 1987, when there was the greatest number of Japanese ever at MPI, twenty-two as I recall. From these, I made a few good friends, one of whom became my first Japanese collaborator. One can say that Hirzebruch brought Japan to me (likewise did JAMI).

One thing that I have not yet mentioned: the prize is important to JAMI. The award is visible to everyone at Johns Hopkins University, in particular the high administration, and also to people outside Hopkins. This will help in several ways, ... including funding.

To close, I heard of a rumor 2-3 years ago that "JAMI was dying". I denied it, and apparently so have you. To 18 more years of JAMI, and beyond! Last but not least, I have here a letter of appreciation from the President of Johns Hopkins University to President Kojima.

Steven Zucker