

Obituaries

Statement by the Government of Japan
(Mr. Yoshikazu Tanaka)

The Government of Japan would like to express its profound sorrow over the passing of Mr. Yoshikazu Tanaka.

Mr. Tanaka involved in leading activities of trade union organizations in Japan, and contributed to advance the important work of the ILO.

In 1978, Mr. Tanaka became a Worker member of the Governing Body, and he participated in the discussion for steering the activity of the ILO for 9 years.

During that period, economic recession by oil crisis caused high unemployment which increased poverty all over the world. To address this problem, he emphasized the effectiveness of social policies that remain relevant to this day.

In 1982, Mr. Tanaka was appointed as the Worker Vice-President of the International Labour Conference. At that time, various conflicts broke out and the world was confused, which made it difficult to concentrate on the agenda at the Plenary in the ILC. However, Mr. Tanaka had played bravely the role of the Vice-President, and his resolute attitude made the proceedings normalized. For this reason, he was known as 'Mr. Samurai'.

He also contributed to the Asian regional meetings twice, by steering the meetings as the Vice-Chairperson.

We are grateful to this Governing Body for the opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of Mr. Tanaka to Japan, Asia and the Pacific, and the ILO.

With grateful appreciation for the numerous services rendered by Mr. Tanaka during his lifetime, we offer these words of deepest regret over his loss.