

Of Grief and Memory: Dearest Friend Professor Giovanni Rodolfo Solari

I am grieving at the sad news of the death of my best friend, Prof. Giovanni Solari, on November 19, 2020.

A great star in the areas of structural dynamics, wind engineering, structural mechanics, and structural safety and reliability has fallen. He was gentle and sincere in nature, trusted by all his friends and loved by his colleagues as well as his students. I met him first at Fort Collins, Colorado in 1979, and I have many wonderful memories of him, both officially and personally, for more than 40 years. My last talk with him was online in early July, this year.

As everybody knows Professor Giovanni Solari had an impressive record of research, publications, and contributions to the development of standards provisions, as well as a long record of educating students and in chairing and participating in technical committees and organization of conferences. His work on closed form solutions of along-wind and 3D responses of structures, the equivalent wind spectrum technique, proper orthogonal decomposition and double modal transformation, wind-induced fatigue, and thunderstorms are particularly noteworthy. His work often had a significant impact on the development of wind and structural design of buildings and structures.

Giovanni played many important roles in the world such as President of the Italian National Association for Wind Engineers, President of the International Association for Wind Engineering, and so on. Here, we should note that he drafted the IAWQ Bylaws and put it in force in 2003, and founded the current IAWQ framework. He served as Director of the European Research Council Advanced Grant “THUNDERR”, which is the most prestigious research grant supported by the European Commission.

He also served as a Guest Professor and an International Advisory Board Member of the 21st Century Center of Excellent Program “Wind Effects on Buildings and Urban Environment” and the Global Center of Excellent Program “New Frontier of Education and Research in Wind Engineering” of Tokyo Polytechnic University, Japan; a Senior Adviser of the Academic Council of Beijing’s Key Laboratory of Structural Wind Engineering and Urban Wind Environment at the Beijing Jiaotong University, China; a Guest Professor of the 111 Project “High-Performance Wind Energy System and Effective Operation of Wind Farm” of Chongqing University, China; and so on.

Giovanni published a book “Wind Science and Engineering Origins, Developments, Fundamentals and Advancements” last year, 2019, and incidentally, I wrote a book review for this publication as follows.

“This leading authority has devoted himself to the study of wind engineering for more than 40 years. He has integrated academic researches and intellectual, cultural, scientific and engineering aspects of wind engineering in this book and elevated it to an art. This book is a masterpiece, in which human stories hidden behind various scientific discoveries are carved in relief.

...

Readers will be entrained and invited to travel the mysterious space-time continuum where they can enjoy panoramic views of developments of mathematics, probability, fluid dynamics, structural engineering, meteorology, and so on. Clear illustrations, photos, figures, and glossaries are richly inlaid, and only by letting themselves go with the travelling train, readers can naturally accumulate a wealth of fundamental and advanced knowledge on wind engineering. The author has prepared an excellent ingenious device to enable readers to enjoy the real charm of wind engineering.

This is definitely a valuable book for senior researchers and junior scholars in the wind engineering field, but it will also be beneficial and revealing for people in other scientific and engineering fields.

*I believe this **valuable** book will be read by many people and will surely become a **great classic** in the wind and structural engineering fields.”*

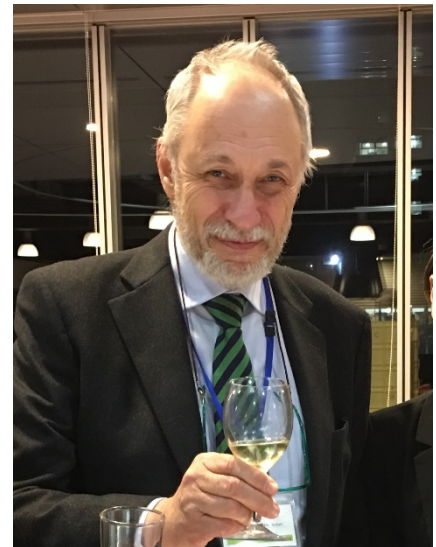
He seemed to have hastened to his death, leaving this great classic for us.



1997 EACWE2 in Genova



2008 ISWE3 in Tokyo



2018 WRDM in Sendai

May his soul rest in peace and sincerest condolences to his family.

Yukio Tamura

Professor Emeritus, Tokyo Polytechnic University, JAPAN

Professor, Chongqing University, CHINA