

Appreciation of Thomas Salander

by Ichiro Wakai

At the February 1994 meeting of the MUMPS Development Committee in Houston, Texas, Thomas Salander stepped aside as the MDC chair. His many colleagues paid tribute to his years of service during a "retirement" party. Among the letters received, M Computing respectfully prints this one as symbolic of the good wishes that go with Thomas.—Editor

In 1980, Joseph T. O'Neill told us in Japan that all the languages stand on the shoulders of the past giants. It is true with M Technology.

Thomas Salander has been the one who led the effort to make M more

gigantic than ever before by chairing the MDC for such a long time in preparing its updated ANSI standards twice, and to elevate it to an ISO standard.

Without profound love for M and its future, nobody would have dared to challenge the leadership in fostering M to become a giant.

How tolerant and democratic he was when he told me on a Mississippi boat that one may do anything in the United States unless it conflicts with law! This must have been the secret of his introducing so many features into M music.

Thomas has been the key figure in enlarging the scale of the M orchestra

from a simple ensemble for baroque music to such an orchestra with varieties of modern instruments and tools, including a Japanese harp and a Chinese gong, while able to perform coordinatedly with other orchestras.

We in Japan will miss him whenever the gigantic art of M is heard performed in harmony. ■

Ichiro Wakai, M.D., is the emeritus chairman of the M Technology Association of Japan. He is the founder and head of MUMPS Systems Laboratory in Nagoya, Japan. He has sponsored many international conferences on the M language. Dr. Wakai served as chairman of the MUG-International Federation during 1990-91.

An Invitation for Authors and Would-Be Authors

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