

ACADEMIC PRIZE: DOMESTIC CATEGORY

Name: **Minoru TAKEUCHI**

Date of Birth: **June 12, 1923 (Age: 69)**

Citizenship: **Japan**

PROFILE

Professor Takeuchi was born in Zhang Dian, Shangdong Province, China. He spent his teens in *Xin Jing, Manchuria* (now Changchun, Jilin Province). This experience provided him with the foundation of his fine command of Chinese and underlying attitude as a researcher. After graduation from the School of Chinese Literature, Faculty of Letters, Kyoto University, he went on to the Graduate School of Literature at the University of Tokyo. After receiving his degree, he obtained a position at the Institute of Chinese Studies. In addition to that, he taught Chinese language and eagerly introduced Chinese Contemporary Literature. During the next ten years, he taught at Tokyo Metropolitan University. Meanwhile, he visited China with a delegation of Japanese writers represented by Hiroshi Noma and he met Mao Zedong. He later published the interview with the Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party. He also published the book *Mao Zedong: His Poem and Life* in co-authorship with Taijun Takeda. The book is credited for its originality in focusing on the human aspect of the Chinese leader.

In 1973, he was invited to the newly opened Department of Contemporary China at the Research Institute for Humanistic Studies where he presided over a research group and later became Director. Upon his retirement from Kyoto University, he aided in the commencement of the Faculty of International Relations at Ritsumeikan University and was later appointed Dean of the Faculty. At present, he is Professor there.

Professor Takeuchi is known for his unparalleled theory on Contemporary China: he analyses China in a synthetic context that encompasses viewpoints of literature, thought and historical science. His concept of understanding Contemporary China has had a great influence not only in Japan, but China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

He is an acclaimed authority of Chinese Literature and in the studies of Mao Zedong and Lu Xun. His literary productions on these subjects are immense. *Chakan* (Tearoom), in particular, is noted for its eloquent portrayal of the Chinese climate and outlook on the world. The book was translated into Chinese and has been highly praised that the author understood China so deeply that he was half Chinese at heart.

MAJOR WORKS

Mao Zedong - His Poem and Life (co-author, 1965); *Image of China that the Japanese have* (1966); *Chinese Thought - Traditional and Contemporary* (1967); *Contemporary Chinese Literature - Development and Logic* (1972); *Mao Zedong and the Chinese Communist Party* (1972); *Tearoom - Chinese Climate and the Image of the World* (1974); *Viewpoint on China* (1975); *China as Contemporary* (1976); *Journey - Chineseness in Japan* (1976); *Lu Xun in a Distance* (1978); *Easy to Have Friendship, Difficult to Understand* (1980); *Chinese Tea Poems* (1982); *Quotation from Mao Zedong: His writings and Speeches* (ed., 1983); *On Chinese Life - Food, Clothing and Housing in Huangtu Gaoyuan* (1984); *The Latest Circumstances of Chinese Literature* (co-ed., 1984); *Development of Contemporary China* (1987); *China in a Turning Point* (Kyoto, 1988); *Mao Zedong* (1989); *A New Tide of Arts and Literature: Iwanami Course on Contemporary China Vol. V* (ed. & author, 1990); *Love Song - Chinese Recited Poems* (1990)

*Titles without place of publication are published in Tokyo.