

Obituary. Tetsuo Kanno, PhD, 1940–2021



We are deeply saddened by the passing of Emeritus Professor Tetsuo Kanno, the founding President of the Asian Congress of Neurological Surgeons (ACNS) and one of the most respectful, humble, outstanding and leading neurosurgeons in the world. Emeritus Professor Tetsuo Kanno died peacefully on 6th August 2021 at 5.12 am Japan Standard Time, at 81 years old due to heart ailment. Emeritus Professor Tetsuo Kanno was my superior, my mentor, exemplary role model to many young neurosurgeons, a visionary leader and loyal friend. His philosophy and teachings have left an indelible impression on many of us for years to come. Emeritus Professor Tetsuo Kanno's accomplishments, legacy, and perseverance in the field of neurosurgery inspired many of us. His philosophy regarding life and neurosurgery have been guiding many of us in our daily practices. There are so many within our society, and beyond, who will consider themselves privileged to be counted among his students, friends and colleagues. He will always be in our hearts." Our sympathy and prayers go out to his family members, and all those who were close to him.




Dear Prof Kato,

I am very sad for demise of Prof Kanno. He has been very kind and gentle to me and all the students from abroad. I had 3 months Neurosurgery training at Fujita Health University in 1999 and attended dozens of conferences in Japan, most of them were arranged by Prof Kanno. I had the opportunity to meet and learn from most prominent neurosurgeons around the world. He always made his best effort for development of Neurosurgery especially in developing countries. He organized many conferences and invited many young neurosurgeons from developing countries and supported for airfare, hotels fees and conference fees since he understood the young neurosurgeons from our part of world cannot afford to attend such conferences. He also suggested other prominent neurosurgeons and their societies to support young neurosurgeons and this became the good tradition in last two decades. He founded ACNS, JIMCO to help the development of Neurosurgery in

developing countries. About 30 medical personnel from Myanmar, neurosurgeons, neuroradiologist, Rehabilitation specialists and nurses had training in Japan with help of JIMCO, Japan International Medical Cooperation Organization. He initiated new hospital project for Neurosurgery in Yangon, Myanmar and organized many Japanese Government officials and politicians and Hospital project was launched with Japan Government donation of 80 million USD. He wanted to see that new hospital and visited to Myanmar many times to facilitate the project. I believe many neurosurgeons from many countries have similar good stories with Prof Kanno. He will remain in our heart forever.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Myat Thu



Professor Yoko Kato
President, Asian Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Chair, Education and Training Committee of the WFNS
First Chair, WFNS Women in Neurosurgery (WIN)
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