

## **Koya Suto**

### **Honorary Membership of the ASEG**

**Sydney, August 2010**

#### **CITATION:**

The Award of Honorary Membership of the ASEG, for distinguished contributions by a member to the Society and the profession over many years, is made to Koya Suto. Koya is well known to most members of the ASEG through his long-standing membership of the ASEG Federal Executive, and his editorship for many years of the ASEG Membership Directory.

Koya graduated in 1974 from Akita University in Japan with Bachelor of Engineering in Geology and in 1976 received his Master of Engineering in Exploration Geophysics. Following this, he came to Adelaide University to further his research interests in airborne magnetic and radiometric surveys in the Broken Hill area.

He was subsequently employed as an exploration geophysicist over a 20 year period by several companies, including Esso Exploration, CRA Exploration and Origin Energy. His main work during this period was seismic data interpretation and supervising data acquisition and processing in many Australian basins including the Otway, Gippsland, Canning, Carnarvon, Timor Sea, Macarthur, and the Surat/Bowen Basins. He helped decide drilling locations for many exploration and development wells and used several other geophysical techniques for minerals, coal and petroleum resources exploration.

In 2003, Koya established Terra Australis Geophysica Pty Ltd, a geophysical consultancy group providing high-resolution geophysical services to the engineering, environmental, agricultural and resource industries. With Terra Australis, Koya has been studying and using the MASW (Multi-channel Analysis of Surface Waves) method since 2003. He is one of the longest users of this method in Australia.

He translated a textbook *The Microtremor Survey Method* by Hiroshi Okada. This was published by SEG as Monograph Series 12, in 2003.

Koya has served the ASEG with distinction. He has been a member since 1975 and has served continuously on eighteen Federal Executives, from 1992 to 2010 – probably longer than anyone else - and has been a Vice-President since 2006. Throughout this extended period Koya has made an enormous contribution over a whole range of portfolios.

His initial responsibility was in the critical area of membership. He was responsible for maintaining the Society's membership records, and his renowned tenacity and determination ensured that what used to be a somewhat chaotic arrangement was transformed into a properly maintained system; and perhaps more importantly, that

renewal notices were distributed on time. During that time he was also involved with the development of the ASEG's website.

From 1998 to 2007 he was responsible for most of the compilation and production of the annual ASEG Membership Directories. This required a huge amount of work, particularly interacting with State Branch Committees, to ensure that the Directory was up-to-date, comprehensive and accurate. As a result the Directory is one of our most used and respected publications.

In the last few years, with his responsibility for International Affairs, he has been the main driving force behind the successful collaborations ASEG has developed with our sister organisations in Japan and South Korea.

As a result we now publish annually joint issues of Exploration Geophysics with the Korean SEG and SEG Japan. Koya was not just involved in the planning and implementation of this initiative. After the decision was made to publish in English, Koya himself translated many of the abstracts into Japanese and was seemingly always available to check or proofread this component of our publication. For this effort Koya was awarded SEGJ's 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Award in 2002. The momentum is in place now to develop further collaboration in the publication area.

Koya has represented the ASEG very effectively at several overseas meetings and his good personal relations attributes have made him an excellent negotiator where joint projects are involved.

Currently he heads up the Education Committee and is tackling this important issue with the same energy and dedication that he has applied throughout the ASEG over the last twenty years.

Koya was awarded an ASEG Service Certificate in 2000 for distinguished service to the ASEG. Since then, his on-going contributions to the ASEG, his energy and persistence has continued to serve the ASEG well and he is most deserving of the award of Honorary Membership.