Preface

The Takagi Lectures are the first series of lectures in mathematics to be crowned with a Japanese mathematician's name.

The lectures have been named in honor of Professor Teiji Takagi (1875–1960), the creator of Class Field Theory. In Japan, he was the founder of the Japanese School of modern mathematics (see Miyake's article [2]), and his international achievements included being among the first Fields Medal Committee Members in 1936 together with G.D. Birkhoff, É. Cartan, C. Caratheodory, and F. Severi.

The Mathematical Society of Japan (MSJ) inaugurated the Takagi Lectures as research survey lectures at the highest level by the finest contemporary mathematicians. The lectures are intended for a wide range of mathematicians, and are to be held twice a year. The first Takagi Lectures took place in November 2006 at RIMS, Kyoto, with the distinguished lecturers, S. Bloch, P.-L. Lions, S. Smale and C. Voisin. The third Takagi Lectures are to be held in cooperation with the University of Tokyo in November 2007 with the distinguished lecturers, J. Makino and P. Malliavin. The MSJ decided to use the surplus from the International Congress of Mathematicians, which was held in Kyoto in 1990, to partially support the funding of the Takagi Lectures.

The lecture notes of the Takagi Lectures are to be published by the official journal of the Mathematical Society of Japan, the *Japanese Journal of Mathematics* (JJM), the oldest continuously published mathematical journal in Japan (founded in 1924). JJM relaunched its 3rd series in 2006 as a mathematical journal of research survey articles of the highest scientific level in cooperation with Springer, and the new editors of JJM, Y. Kawahigashi, T. Kobayashi, H. Nakajima, K. Ono and T. Saito are also responsible for the Takagi Lectures. The videos of the lectures will be available on the Internet, so that the audience will be able to recall the lectures with great clarity.

This scheme is intended to enhance the mission of the Takagi Lectures to continue the advancement of mathematics, not only in Japan but also in the whole world.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the distinguished lecturers and all those who have supported our endeavors. I hope that the Takagi Lectures will gain the respect of a worldwide audience and will continue to promote future progress in mathematics.

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Toshiyuki Kobayashi
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Teiji Takagi (1875–1960)

Biography of Teiji Takagi

1875.4.21	Born in Gifu Prefecture, Japan
1894	Entered the Department of Mathematics, Imperial University of Tokyo
1897	Entered the Graduate School of the same university
1898–1901	Studied in Berlin and Göttingen
1903	Received the degree of Doctor of Science from the Imperial University of Tokyo
1904	Appointed Professor at the Imperial University of Tokyo
1920	Published his main paper on the class field theory
1925	Elected Member of the Imperial Academy of Japan
1936	Served on the 1st Fields Medal Committee
1938	Published the book A Course on Analysis (in Japanese)
1940	Received Culture Medal
1960.2.28	Died at the Hospital of Tokyo University

Decorated posthumously with the Order of the Rising Sun of the First Grade

References

[1] T. Kobayashi, On the establishment of the Takagi Lectures, submitted to Japan. J. Math., **2** (2007), 145–148.

[2] K. Miyake, Teiji Takagi, Founder of the Japanese School of Modern Mathematics. Japan. J. Math., **2** (2007), 151–164.