



Kaname Okada

January 17, 1953 - March 14, 2014

Kaname Okada was born in Tokyo, Japan on January 17, 1953. But, his love of other cultures, international travel, helping others, and exploration took him, throughout his life, to many other places other than Japan. Kaname and his American wife Lisa traveled the world. They met in Kaohsiung, Taiwan in 1975. Two wedding ceremonies took place a little over a year later – one in Tokyo for his Japanese family and one in Pittsburgh for Lisa's family. Soon after marriage, Kaname and Lisa found themselves in Cairo, Egypt for 2 years where Kaname learned Arabic for his job with the Japanese government. He also spoke Chinese and for a period of 2 years was working most of his time in China.

Hoping to have children, Kaname and Lisa traveled once again. Michael was born in Taiwan. Annie was born in Colombia. Bringing Michael and Annie into their lives through adoption was the most joyous of experiences for the Okada Family. Kaname, Lisa, Michael and Annie make a close family and team.

Professionally, Kaname was for all intents and purposes, an economist. However, he worked his entire career trying to help others. In Japan he worked with the Japanese government's Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund. He was then transferred to Washington, DC, in 1989. Since arriving in the DC area, Kaname also worked for The World Bank, but most recently (and for the longest period of time) he was employed by the InterAmerican

Development Bank. This is where Kaname found his true calling. For many years he headed IDB's Japan Program. He worked on projects in Latin America, including bringing Minamata survivors and experts from Japan to areas in Latin America where mercury poisoning continues to be an issue. He also worked in Thailand, attempting to help orphans and underprivileged children. He was passionate in whatever work he was involved. And, he was passionate about his family.

Those who knew Kaname will miss him greatly. The Okada Family thanks you all for sharing in this celebration of his life.

If you would like to make a donation in his honor, please consider DBSA – the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance. You may find Kaname's page at http://dbsalliance.org/goto/Kaname_Okada

Kaname's life will be celebrated on March 28, 2014 at Grace Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Virginia. Reception will be at 1:00 PM followed by a service at 2:00 PM.

Tribute Wall



“ *Kaname Okada*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *Ms. Lisa Kaname, Michael and Annie:*

I had the great pleasure to meet your father, 12 years ago, when he was the Head of the Japan Program at IDB. I received from him great guidance and also consideration while I was applying for a job at IDB. I am very grateful to him. I am from Colombia and he said that he loved my country as much as her daughter that was born there. Please receive my condolences and in case you need something from me, be sure that I will be glad to help you. I am currently working at the IDB Office in Asia, and you can reach me by email. Sincerely, Luis Amadeo Hernandez.

April 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM



Lisa, am so surprised to know Kaname passed away. I wanted to see him just once. I had been looking for him for a long time. Please get in touch with me. Yoshio from Tokyo

Yoshio Ikeno - May 13, 2022 at 06:15 PM



yymmuko27@gmail.com Yoshio

Yoshio Ikeno - May 14, 2022 at 08:44 PM



“ To Ms.Okada and her family,
It was and still am my great surprise and regret to know the sudden passing away of Okasa-san.Please accept my deepest sympacies to you and your family.Wheneve I visited the HQ of the IDB, I was always pleased to see Okada-san at his office and felt at ease with his freindship and warmness. What I can do now is praying that his soul rest in peace.

From Toshio Kobayashi, Institute for International Monetary Affairs, Tokyo,Japan

April 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Ms.Okada and Family,
Please accept my sincere condelences to all of you. During my secondment at (JPN) Executive Director's Office of IDB, Mr. Okada kindly gave me advice. Especially when former President Iglesias left IDB, he gave me hints on how to make Japanese Garden trying to make President Iglesias memorial roof-top garden at IDB then... I am very shocked to know the sudden demise of Mr. Okada.

*May his soul rest in peace.
From Takara Teranishi, JBIC,Tokyo Japan*

April 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ To Ms Okada and Family.
I am shocked to know the sudden demise of Mr Kaname Okada. Though our interactions were limited, Mr Okada had given me very meaningful guidance on life. He was very caring about others and and I am one of many beneficiaries of his benevolence. I am very sad that I can no longer thank him again in person. May his soul rest in peace.

From Shohei HARA, JICA Iraq Office.

April 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ To: Ms. Okada and Family,
I am deeply shocked to hear of the loss of Mr. Kaname Okada, and would like to offer my deepest sympathy to you and your family. It was in 1990 when I met Mr. Okada for the first time at OECF. Since then, whenever I got lost in my life or tended to forget what is important and what is not, it was always him who listened empathetically to concerns and gave guidances that resonated in the heart. He encouraged us to passionately communicate with others to reach true understanding and avoid pretended sympathy. His voice could only be heard in our memory now, but his will to face others in honesty is succeeded by many of us.
May his soul rest in peace.
From: Motoyuki TAKAHASHI, Japan International Cooperation Agency - Tokyo

March 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ To: Ms. Okada and her family
Please accept my sincere condolences to all of you. I was with Mr. Okada in OECF. During my secondment days in the World Bank, he gave me a very informative suggestion on how to survive in the international organization. That was very useful advise and I thanked him a lot. He was always smiling and I always remember his smile everytime I hear his name. I thank you again for his thoughtfulness. My his soul stay in peace.

March 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *To: Ms. Lisa Okada and the Okada Family
I am deeply shocked to hear of passing Mr. Kaname Okada. Please accept my deepest sympathies to you and your family.
I used to work at the World Bank in Washington D.C. (from the late 80s to 90s) and then moved to the OECF/JBIC in the Latin America and Caribbean Department. This was one of my most exciting times in my life and career, and I really owe him a lot. I sincerely thank him for various kinds of support, and the memory of my working with him will stay with my heart forever...
May his soul rest in peace.
From: Izumi Ohno, Tokyo, JAPAN*

March 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Cousin Lisa, Annie and Michael,
I never got the chance to meet Kaname but I know how much he meant to you. Thinking of you and hoping with time a gentle peace will return to your lives....sincerely... Peggy and Mike Lalik*

March 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM