

Preface: Regarding the Translation of *Kaoru Ishikawa, the Man and Quality Control*

As it is stated in the postscript written by Noriaki Kano, the original book *Kaoru Ishikawa, the Man and Quality Control* started with a discussion of what kind of book would meet with Mrs. Keiko Ishikawa's desire to capture Dr. Ishikawa's life to print in such a way that when his grandchildren grow up, the work could be used to explain what their grandfather did and then was published by Mrs. Ishikawa in 1993. As it turned out, this project had a total 172 writers contributing (144 writers from Japan and 28 writers from 15 other countries), and we were able to expound on Dr. Ishikawa's major activities which resulted in a book of nearly 550 pages. All expenses for publishing this book were contributed by Ms. Keiko Ishikawa. The first edition of 500 copies printed was presented to the writers and to the libraries of Quality Management-related organizations in Japan and overseas.

As this book contains not only the personal activities of Dr. Ishikawa, but also some prospects of the history of Japan's quality management, everyone concerned had foreseen at an early stage the necessity of having this book translated into English, but due to various conditions, we could not set to work on the translation at that time. In December 2000, Mrs. Keiko Ishikawa contributed as shown in the below which set in motion the actual translation process. An operating committee to translate *Kaoru Ishikawa, the Man and Quality Control* was established at JUSE, acting as its secretariat, and Mr. Nobuhiko Takamatsu, the former Managing Director of Showa Denko, and one of Dr. Ishikawa's disciples (one year senior to Noriaki Kano at the University of Tokyo) taking on the role of chairman of the committee. At this stage, the following contribution was received from:

- Ms. Keiko Ishikawa, Mr. Nobuhiko Takamatsu, ASQ Ishikawa Medal Founding Celebration
- Dr. Noriaki Kano's Winning Celebration Party of The Deming Prize for Individuals
- and then translation process began. Sadly, as this project was finally set in motion, Mr. Nobuhiko Takamatsu suddenly passed away (September 30, 2005), and the attempt at translation suffered a grave setback.

As the year 2015 would mark the 100th year since Dr. Ishikawa's birth, in

mid-2014, Dr. Hiroshi Osada, a disciple of Dr. Ishikawa, Mr. Ichiro Kotsuka, Managing Director of JUSE, and Noriaki Kano began discussing how to accomplish the translation work and created the following framework:

1. In order to allow the original book to be widely read by those related to quality management, upload the contents on the JUSE web-site.
2. By having the original book translated into English, this would allow everyone concerned about the quality management, including those overseas, to deepen their understanding of Dr. Ishikawa's greatest achievements as well as the history of Japan's development of quality management. At the same time, in this age of globalization, this would leverage Japan's experiences to the developing countries so that their quality management will further progress.
3. Organize a series of crown events as a commemorative project to celebrate Dr. Ishikawa's 100th birthday.

With this framework in our minds, we consulted with Dr. Hitoshi Kume, Professor Emeritus of The University of Tokyo, and the eldest among the live disciples of Prof. Ishikawa, and he graciously accepted the role of the chairman of the organizing committee. During the consultation, Dr. Kume very generously volunteered to take a fresh look at Prof. Ishikawa's writings, and compile something that could be regarded as "these are Dr. Ishikawa's works." As for the translation of the original book, it was agreed that instead of translating all 550 pages, we would be flexible and proceed with the translation by seeking appropriate individuals to sponsor this work.

Whether a project succeeds or fails depends on whom we invite as the members of the organizing committee as well as the selection of its chairman. These will be face of the project. Fortunately, I had the opportunity to meet Dr. Shoichiro Toyoda, Honorary Chairman of Toyota Motors, who is one of the writers for the original book, and despite a rather abrupt request, he willingly agreed to become the member of the organizing committee with the kind words, "I shall be honored to accept." As a result, most of the members that we invited thereafter agreed to become the member of the committee saying that they felt honored to join the list with Dr. Toyoda.

As for the English translation, as there were companies that held staffs fluent in English, we requested for their cooperation based on the possible pages they can translate rather than monetary donation. At last, we received the cooperation from the companies and individuals (in some cases, we received monetary contributions, which were allotted to translation fees) as per the attached appendix:

As a result, most of the original book was translated into English. We would like to

deeply thank these [sponsoring companies and individuals](#).

It was necessary to check the appropriateness of the English translation against the original book, as the translation was done by the sponsoring companies and individuals who were specialists in English but may not be necessarily familiar with the terminology of quality management. Thus, we established the [English Quality Securing Team \(EQST\)](#), whose participants learned from Prof. Ishikawa's disciples, and had the team check the consistency of Japanese and English terminology. Members of the EQST are as per the attached appendix:

As the English translation went through these processes, the English became the so-called Japanglish, which may possibly be hard to read and may not lead to clear understanding. Thus, we asked for the brush up of the translation to Mr. Kiran Deshmukh, the president of the Indian Society for Quality (ISQ), introduced to us by Mr. Janak Mehta, the chairman of the International Academy for Quality (IAQ). Mr. Deshmukh organized the [English Brush Up Team \(EBUT\)](#). The members of EBUT are as per the attached appendix:

All members of EQST and EBUT contributed their share of the work gratuitously.

Another issue that weighed heavily in our minds other than the translation issue since the publication of the original book was the existence of individuals whom we should have requested to contribute in the original book, but we overlooked. Furthermore, it has been 25 years since the passing of Prof. Ishikawa, and there should be many who were not directly acquainted with Prof. Ishikawa during his lifetime, but were influenced by Dr. Ishikawa through his writings. A plan has been set in motion to request that these individuals provide additional contributions, and to issue an enlarged edition in a timely manner that include these new contributions.

Prof. Kazuyuki Suzuki single-handedly undertook and carried out a whole editorial work, such as converting the original book into word document, corresponding with the translators, the members of EQST and EBUT, and the Web editors, unifying the terms and references throughout a whole volume. It was due to Prof. Suzuki's devoted service that this English version could be published. Also, Mr. Janak Mehta as well as Mr. Gregory H. Watson have given us numerous advises as English translation editors. Mr. Ichiro Kotsuka of JUSE had given us extensive support through JUSE. I would like to thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

I feel as if I have been carrying very heavy baggage on my back for more than 20 years since the original work was published and for 15 years since the operating

committee for English translation was organized under Chair Nobuhiko Takamatsu. I am pleased now because I can see Professor Ishikawa with my head held high at any time in another world (However, I wish that date is still very far away...)

October 3, 2015

Co-Editor

Dr. Noriaki Kano