Toshi Yamazaki: A Legacy of Innovation in Hypernuclear and Strange Particle Physics

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Toshimitsu Yamazaki (1934–2025) made pioneering and enduring contributions to hypernuclear and strange particle physics over a career spanning more than six decades. From the first precision measurement of magnetic moments in excited nuclei revealing mesonic effects, to the development of μSR techniques and the promotion of Japan's hypernuclear programs, his work helped shape the field's experimental and conceptual foundations.

In this commemorative talk, I will present a personal overview of Prof. Yamazaki's scientific legacy, with emphasis on his role in establishing experimental strangeness nuclear physics as a vibrant discipline. Highlights include his leadership in building Japan's pulsed muon facilities, his early vision for J-PARC, and his exploratory ventures into exotic systems such as deeply bound pionic atoms and antiprotonic helium. I will also reflect on his unique approach to science—marked by bold ideas, international collaboration, and an unwavering drive to challenge conventional wisdom.

Prof. Yamazaki's lifelong motto, "do what no one else does," remains a source of inspiration to generations of physicists.

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