

Reminiscing the landscape of the Hokkaido plateau and the Master of Living, Mr. Fumiaki Takano

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Source: Takano Landscape Planning Co. Ltd. CTLAS Br.

I became acquainted with Mr. Fumiaki Takano through the Luodong Sports Park project of Takano Landscape Planning. In fact, whenever Mr. Takano visited Taiwan, we would dine together along with the Taiwan branch manager, Mr. Toshiya Ishimura. I've also encountered Mr. Takano on different occasions across different countries during the annual meetings of IFLA, of which I've been a member for over 30 years.

He was one of the few established Japanese landscape architects who spoke fluent English. Born in 1944 in Tianjin, China, Mr. Takano graduated from the School of Agriculture in Hokkaido University. After working in the field for a couple of years, he went back to school and studied at the College of Environment and Design in Georgia University and worked at Simons and Simonds in Pittsburgh, USA upon his graduation. In 1975, he went back to Japan to establish the Takano Landscape Planning Co. Ltd. in Tokyo. As he used to live in Hokkaido, he had a soft spot for the majestic mountainous landscapes, and especially enjoyed riding horses on the plateau. He also loved the pristine forests that remained largely untouched by man, so much so that it led him to delve deeper into the community culture under the phenological conditions of the

plateau wetland affected on high-latitudes. In 1990, he eventually moved his company to Hokkaido. An internationally renowned landscape planning company would rarely ever voluntarily relocate to remote and secluded pastures.



Surrounded by the mountainous landscapes, Mr. Takano’s design and views are broad and vast.
Sources: Takano Landscape Planning Co. Ltd. CTLAS Br. (Left), Monica Kuo (Right)

Mr. Takano’s love of nature and his sense of responsibility towards it becomes apparent with the relocation. He even investigated the seed gene banks in the forests and, inspired by Ian McHarg, Mr. Takano began devoting himself to promoting ecological design through the integration of the wisdom of Eastern Feng Shui in conducting scientific analysis of landscape overlays and designs. During his stay in Hokkaido, Mr. Takano also persuaded the government to cooperate with the residents to promote the “Tokachi Millennium Forest Conservation Project,” stemming from a belief that “humans should listen to nature and conserve forests, keeping future generations in mind. A century-old tree can be passed on to future generations for thousands of years.” Thus, he hoped that the conversation efforts made today can help promote the preservation of the ecosystem through the next millennium.



The “Hokkaido Forest Conservation Plan” stemmed from Mr. Takano’s responsibility and commitment to nature conservation.

Source: Monica Kuo

While some might view his visions as vast and broad, what lies underneath is a child-like innocence. In fact, aside from designing parks across diverse landscapes and climate, he was also dedicated to designing creative children’s playgrounds, with Showa Kinen Park’s “Children’s Forest” and the Hokkaido Ritsu Tokachi Ecology Park



Showa Kinen Park is a pioneering environmental project, and the children playground in Tokachi Ecology Park is impressive.

Sources: Takano Landscape Planning Co. Ltd. CTLAS Br. (Left), Monica Kuo (Right)



Luodong Sports Park exemplifies the wisdom of Eastern Fung Shui.

Sources: Monica Kuo (Left), Takano Landscape Planning Co. Ltd. CTLAS Br. (Right)

being two of his masterpieces. Mr. Takano also advocated multi-sensory environmental activities and hand-made trails. His views on Feng Shui were rather scientific; the Luodong Sports Park perfectly exemplifies the auspicious spatial features “befitting the four gods.”

Mr. Fumiaki Takano was the President of IFLA-APR from 2019 to 2021. During his term, he ensured the participation of many young Japanese landscape architects in the IFLA’s international activities. Despite having a great pool of talents, the two largest landscape architect organizations—the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and the Japanese Institute of Landscape Architecture—prioritized domestic affairs and didn’t actively partake in the IFLA international events in the past. Since Mr. Takano became the president, however, he has expanded the scope of his work and established a committee connecting the two countries. In addition, he also actively

developed exchanges and coaching with other non-member countries in Asia, including Mongolia, Vietnam, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, etc.



Mr. Takano highly valued the development of the landscape profession in the SEA region, especially in emerging country such as Vietnam.

Sources: Monica Kuo



The IFLA-APR Presidency handover ceremony in 2019; CTLAS is committed to continuous exchange and taking over the baton.

Sources: Monica Kuo

The contributions embodied Mr. Takano's broad visions and pragmatism and I am honored to succeed him as President for the next term from 2021 to 2023. I believe that with CTLAS President Eric Hsu and other previous presidents' dedication and cooperation, each and every member of the CTLAS shall have the opportunity to take on new challenges, promote the Landscape Solution, and put Taiwan on the map. We look forward to the exchanges and interactions of the landscape architects in the Asia Pacific region to serve as beacons in enhancing the education; technology; policies; and regulations regarding relevant materials, equipment and seedlings. More importantly, as IFLA-APR is a professional landscape architect organization recognized by the United Nations, we also expect the expedition of the system and certification of "landscape architects" in Taiwan. This way, we can truly stand on our own on equal footing with the international landscape experts, and build each other up.

Sincerely,

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I'd love to extend my gratitude and respect on behalf of the Taiwan's landscape community and our commitment to the development of IFLA-APR.