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In Memoriam - Emeritus Professor Yoshimi Goda (1935-2012)

On January 19th, 2012 the international coastal engineering community lost one of its most prominent pillars, Emeritus Professor Yoshimi Goda.

The following sentences constitute my personal obituary to Professor Yoshimi Goda, among the most worldwide respected coastal engineers, whom I had the pleasure and privilege to get to know and appreciate, in a series of bi-yearly meetings of the International Coastal Engineering Conferences (ICCEs), as well at other international meetings and also via his numerous excellent publications in the various journals, proceedings and particularly his excellent book "Random Seas and Design of Maritime Structures". I tried below to show his extensive professional activity via his contributions mainly at the ICCEs and a few personal qualities I saw. I truly hope these will help the reader of these sentences to better appreciate the kind and wise person who was Emeritus Professor Yoshimi Goda.

Since my graduation as a civil coastal engineer, I have got acquainted with his important and pioneering coastal engineering work via his early articles: "Estimation of wave statistics from spectral information" (Intl. Symposium on Ocean Wave Measurement and Analysis, New Orleans, 1974), "New wave pressure formulae for composite breakwaters" (14th ICCE, 1974), "Irregular wave deformation in the surf zone" (Coastal Engineering in Japan, Vol. 18, 1975), "Estimation of incident and reflected waves in random wave experiments" (15th ICCE, 1976), "The observed joint distribution of periods and heights of sea waves" (16th ICCE, 1978) and "Random seas & design of maritime structures" (University of Tokyo Press, 1984). The 1975 paper and the extension in the 1984 paper mentioned above, constitute an example of the pioneering work of Prof. Goda on irregular wave transformation from deep water to the shore.

In 1986, preparing for my attendance at the 20th ICCE in Taipei, while he was serving as the Director General of the Port and Harbour Research Institute of Japan, I asked his permission to visit the Institute, which was kindly granted. He invited me, then a young coastal engineering researcher, to present my paper at the ICCE in Taipei, also at the Institute. When I arrived, I was given accurate helpful advice to reach Yokosuka train station coming from Tokyo, from where I was taken by car to the Institute, and brought to the meeting room of the Director General (not before changing my shoes for a pair of comfortable slippers). There, Prof. Goda and one of his assistants, Dr. Kobune were waiting for me. After a short introduction, I was shown a video of the Port and Harbour Research Institute activities, then was invited to visit the laboratories. Later, in the afternoon I delivered my presentation to a large audience. It was titled "Evaluation of incident wave energy in flume test" and presented a different method of estimating the incident and reflected wave energy in wave flume tests than the one commonly accepted, as proposed by Prof. Goda in 1976. Although my presentation challenged, in a way, the more sophisticated method proposed by Prof. Goda, I received a warm reception from him and the wide audience. By this I want to show from my

personal point of view his open mind to new ideas. As far as I got to know him, this attitude remained the same over the years, and is certainly worth appreciation.

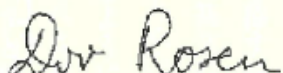
As far as I remember, he did not attend the 20th and 21st ICCE, being certainly too busy with his duty and then moving to the Yokohama National University in 1988 (where he served until 2000, the last 2 years as Provost and retired in 2000 as Emeritus Professor, moving to the ECHO Corporation where he acted as marine consultant). On my part, I was unable to attend the 21st ICCE in Torremolinos which he attended and presented the paper "On the methodology of selecting design wave height", so we met again only from the 22nd ICCE on. He delivered each time new articles, mostly on wave data analysis and wave statistics: "Distribution function fitting for storm wave data" (22nd ICCE, Delft, 1990), "Transformation of wave crest pattern in shoaling water" (23rd ICCE, Venice, 1992), "Analysis of nonlinear coefficients of reflection and transmission of waves propagating over a rectangular step" (24th ICCE, Kobe, 1994). About one month after the Kobe conference, a large earthquake hit the area, leading to severe damage and casualties, followed by extensive professional surveys and studies on the factors affecting the various marine structures in the Osaka bay, which I understood that affected also his research for improved design.

At the following ICCE in Orlando Prof. Goda was partner in two presentations on "A parametric model for random wave deformation by breaking on arbitrary beach profiles" and "Improvement of submerged Doppler-type directional wave meter and its application to field observations". These were followed by papers on "Lateral versus longitudinal artificial reef systems" (26th ICCE, Copenhagen, 1998). In 1989, Prof. Goda received the prestigious International Coastal Engineering Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers, in addition to many other awards and honors. Later on, in 2006 he presented a group paper at the 30st ICCE, San Diego, 2006 titled "Beach erosion and coastal protection plan along the southern Romanian Black sea shore" as well as another joint paper on "A new International Standard for "Actions from waves and currents on coastal structures", the latter being also published as a formal document by the International Standards Institute (ISO 21650, 2007). Discussing with him my presentation there on extreme wave induced longshore currents and forces, he offered my one of his recent software developments, for improved computation of the irregular wave transformation in shallow water and the wave induced currents. This software, if permitted by his family, will be shortly provided for the benefit of the coastal engineering community, for further development and implementation, as expressed by Prof. Goda to me, when he sent me the software Fortran source code. At further meetings, at the 5th international conference "Coastal Structures 2007" in Venice, he delivered the key note presentation titled "Call for engineering judgment in coastal engineering research", while next year he presented jointly with another author a novel paper on "New formulation of wave transmission over and trough low-crested breakwaters" (31st ICCE, Hamburg, 2008). Further he presented another paper titled "Incorporation of Weibull distribution in l-moments method for regional frequency analysis of peaks-over-threshold wave heights" (32nd ICCE, Shanghai, 2010).

I met him last in September last year, at the Coastal Structures 2011 in Yokohama. We discussed on the applicability of the Peak over Threshold method for estimating the extreme design wave heights, under the present climate change state. The discussion was quite vivid. Nothing hinted he is less active than before, although now I know he was suffering of cancer.

I used to send him a Happy New Year card almost each year, and he used to reply with another nice greeting card. The 2012 New Year was different, as I did not receive any return card, and I was wondering why. It was very sad to find out why not.

May his soul rest in peace in Heaven.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dov Rosen". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent 'D' and 'R'.

Sergiu Dov Rosen, Civil Coastal Engineer, July 2012, Haifa, Israel.