

In Memory of Professor Dong Zhiming

It is with great sadness and surprise that I received the news of the passing away of Professor Dong Zhiming, and at the same time I recall the many things he taught me and the many fields we walked together.

I first met Professor Dong in October 1989 in his laboratory at IVPP in Beijing. The purpose of my visit was to bring a replica of dinosaur fossil I had excavated in Fukui Prefecture in 1989 to be examined. Dr. Philip Currie was also in the laboratory, and carefully examined the replicas together with Professor Dong. After that, Professor Dong was very kind to me by observing specimens in China and providing me with literature. From 1992 to 1993, at the suggestion of Professor Dong, we conducted the "Sino-Japanese Silk Road Dinosaur Expedition" in the desert region of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region as a joint Japan-China research project. From 1996 to 1999, China, Mongolia, and Japan conducted a trilateral survey. All of these were conducted under the suggestion and guidance of Professor Dong. It was a very valuable experience for me. Of course, Professor Dong visited Fukui many times and participated in the excavation, giving us guidance.

Professor Dong is also interested in dinosaur research in Asia, and he repeatedly asked me to cooperate in the establishment of the Asia Dinosaur Association (ADA), which was held at the Fukui Prefectural Dinosaur Museum in 2013.

Professor Dong has worked energetically for a long time. Please rest in peace.

October 22, 2024

Yoichi Azuma
President, Asia Dinosaur Association
Emeritus Professor, Fukui Prefectural University
Honorary Advisor, Fukui Prefectural Dinosaur Museum



At the dinosaur excavation site in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand
(Left: the author, center: Prof. Dong, right: the late Dr. Lü Junchang)