



Kazuo Shimoda

(August 18th, 1945 – August 28th, 2023)

August 28th, 2023, Kazuo Shimoda, president of the Handbell Ringers of Japan passed away 10 days after his 78th birthday at Tama Nagayama Hospital surrounded by his loved ones.

Kazuo Shimoda graduated from the Musashino Academia Musicae in 1968. The same year, he started working at Clark Gakuen Izumi Junior College and was appointed as professor in 1984 (till 2004).

He was also the chairman of the National Association of College Music Education/Kanto Chapter and was awarded the Higashi-Kuninomiya Award and Medal for his contribution and dedication to the society, being an expert in children's music education.

His involvement with handbells started in 1983, where he started as a member of the HRJ, elected as a board member in 1995. After several years of service, he was then elected to vice-president and succeeded the president's post after the passing of Shigeaki Hinohara in 2018 till present as the 4th president of the Handbell Ringers of Japan.

He devoted most of his adult life to handbells and handchimes. As the 4th president, he led us through the most difficult times of the guild and guided us to a brighter path during the pandemic. He was definitely a members' president, loved by all the members of the HRJ.

He was known to be a quiet man with a kind smile, but his passion and strength inside was bigger than any of us and always thought of the future of the HRJ. His visions and decisions have brought us wonderful results which we will for sure cherish and keep until accomplished.

Mr. Shimoda loved the nature very much. In college, he led the 'Wondervogel' club and climbed many mountains in Japan. He enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren at his summer home that views Mt. Fuji, surrounded by the beautiful Japanese nature.

The funeral service was held on August 31st, Minami-Machida Church where he was a dedicated parish member by his family and close relatives.

May he rest in peace. Thank you so much for everything.