

Hayami's development economics



Photo courtesy of Fukuoka City

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We write this piece with sadness and deep regret as we inform the Filipino academic community that Professor Yujiro Hayami passed away on 24 December 2012 at the age of 80. He is survived by his wife, three children, and three granddaughters. His family, friends, and students gathered in a Catholic church in Kaminoge, a suburb of Tokyo, near his residence, for a funeral mass five days after his death. During the mass the officiating priest announced that a simultaneous mass was being held at

the campus of the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB), which was organized by his close friends at UPLB and at the International Rice Research Institute.

Professor Hayami was a friend of the Filipino people. He “adopted” a village in the province of Laguna, known among economists as the “Hayami village”, where he explored household behavior in unprecedented detail for over a quarter of century. His major finding in his village is that community, market, and state had a mutually complementary relationship in economic development. He focused on the role of trust in rural areas in Asia and the cultural tradition of income sharing and work sharing in agricultural activities such as planting, harvesting, and weeding, which tend to promote a social system that is both just and equitable. Because of Professor Hayami’s strong affinity with his study village, the villagers organized a *padasal* (prayer vigil) on the 40th day of his death to pray for his journey to eternity in accordance with Filipino tradition.

Besides his village studies, he advanced our knowledge in two other areas. The first was to identify the stylized facts and working mechanisms of agricultural development through both historical and intercountry comparative analysis. His book with Vernon W. Ruttan, *Agricultural development: An international perspective*, was the major product of this effort. Professor Hayami’s contribution also includes studies on political economy, including *The political economy of agricultural production* (with Kym Anderson) and *Towards an alternative land reform paradigm: a Philippine perspective* (with Agnes Quisumbing and Lourdes Adriano).

In his lifetime, Professor Hayami wrote 16 books and more than 200 journal articles, book chapters, and bulletins and circulars, making him a leading Asian economist. He won the Purple Ribbon Medal (Shiju Hoshō) from the Government of Japan in 1999 and the Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize from the City of Fukuoka in 2001. Yet he considered his award in tennis in the all-Japan seniors’ category a far greater achievement. Indeed, it was his poise, style, and magnificent moves that made Prof. Yujiro Hayami a legend in his own right.