AN INTRODUCTION TO PROFESSOR NAOSHI FUKUSHIMA's PRESENTATION OF MEDALS

1982/83 is a year of many anniversaries in the field of geophysics and in auroral research in particular.

1882/83 was the ~~year~~ time the First International Polar Year was organized as a broad international campaign for geophysical research in the Polar Regions. Norway was one of the first countries to join the enterprise and a research station was established by the Meteorological Institute (in Bossekop, Alta.) An additional station was equipped in Kautokeino by enthusiastic Sophus Tromholt.

This was the first time an organized campaign for geophysical research was completed in Norway and in particular in Northern Norway.

1932/33 was the ~~year~~ time when the Second Polar Year was organized.

In 1930 the Auroral Observatory was inaugurated and Leiv Harang, the young enthusiastic director, saw the importance of being involved in international campaigns in order to study such global phenomena as the aurora and geomagnetic disturbances. He therefore got the Auroral Observatory engaged as a special station belonging to the main global network of observatories, and he also installed equipment at Bjørnøya.

Several foreign scientists ~~also~~ visited the observatory during this year bringing new and revolutionary equipment to the site. Some of the first radio measurements of the aurora was obtained at Tromsø at this time and the observatory established itself, thanks to the work of Harang, as one of the leading auroral observatories in the world.

1957/58 was another ~~year~~ time of international cooperation, that was the International Geophysical Year (IGY). Norway was at this time again engaged at many stations such as Bjørnøya, Jan Mayen and Longyearbyen and of course at the Auroral Observatory. This year marked the entrance to the space age as this was the first time satellites were used in geophysical research. And again the Norwegian observatories in the Arctic and main land played an important part in this largest international geophysical campaign until now.

Only a few persons are left at the observatory which took part in IGY. As far as I know Steinar Berger and Reidulv Larsen are the only ones.

Today we are therefore very happy to have with us Professor Naoshi Fukushima from the University of Tokyo who not only participated as a scientist in IGY, but who also was the acting secretary of the National Committee of Japan for IGY. Furthermore he used data from all the Norwegian stations during the Second Polar Year for his thesis work on "Polar Magnetic Storms and Geomagnetic Bays" which he completed in 1953. His thesis are of particular interest to the Norwegian community of geophysics because it contributed very strongly to the revival of the work of Kristian Birkeland. At the turn of the century Birkeland published a major work concerning the creation of aurora borealis which was very much in advance compared to his contemporaries work. Birkeland's work was therefore not well recognized and much forgotten for almost 50 years. Thanks to Professor Fukushima, Birkeland's work was brought back to the Parnassus early in the 1950's and then after the IGY the satellite measurements have supported his ~~work~~ idras to a great extent.

In the last 8 years Professor Fukushima has been a Secretary General of the International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA). This position has given him ample opportunity

to appreciate the importance of international cooperation within the field of geophysical research and in particular the work laid down by ~~the~~ observatories such as ours.

It is therefore a great honour for the Auroral Observatory that Professor Naoshi Fukushima now will show his and his colleagues' appreciation by presenting us with these medals.

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