

Announcement

February 9, 2015

To whom this may concern:

At 3:57 a.m. on February 8, 2015, our chairperson Kenji Ekuan passed away of sick sinus syndrome, while being hospitalized, at the age of 85. We deeply appreciate your heartfelt concern and support during his lifetime. Please be informed herewith.

Private funeral will be held by family and relatives.

Also formal funeral with the ceremony bidding farewell will be held as follows:

Date and time:

March 17 (Tue) from 1:00 p.m.

Venue:

Daiden (main-hall) of the Zojoji, the Chief Temple of the Jodo-Buddhist Sect, Tokyo.

4-7-35 Shibakoen, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0011 Japan

Telephone: +81-3-3432-1431

The chief of the funeral committee:

Kozo Yamada (President of GK Design Group Inc.)

The chief mourner:

Shoji Ekuan (brother of the deceased)

You will be informed when details of above programs are decided.

Inquiry about this article is to make attention to:

Sakai, Matsumoto, Nanjo of Information Planning Department of GK Design Group Inc.

San Ai Building 3-30-14 Takada, Toshima-ku, Tokyo 171-0033, Japan

Telephone +81-3-3983-4131 Facsimile +81-3-3985-7780

E-mail info@gk-design.co.jp

Website <http://www.gk-design.co.jp/>

Kenji Ekuan

- 1929 Born In Tokyo
- 1955 Graduated from the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music
- 1957 Established GK Industrial Design Associates and took office as President
- 1970 Elected President of JIDA (Japan Industrial Designer's Association)
- 1971 Executive Chairman of the Organizing Committee for ICSID '73 Congress, Kyoto
- 1975 Elected President of ICSID (International Council of Societies of Industrial Design)
- 1983 Appointed Chairman of the Committee for Exposition Facilities for Tsukuba EXPO '85
- 1983 Appointed Member of the Steering Committee for The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
- 1985 Executive Producer of the Osaka Design Festival '85
- 1987 Appointed Co-General Producer of the World Design Exposition '89, Nagoya
- 1992 Appointed Chairman of the "Design - Up" committee for Tokyo Metropolis
- 1995 Appointed Member of the Traditional Craft Industries Council.

[PRESENT STATUS]

- Chairman of Design for the World
- Senator of ICISID
- Chairman of the Japan Institute of Design
- Honorary chairman of the Forum Douguology

[Awards and Honors]

- ICSID Colin King Grand Prix (ICSID, 1979)
- Honorary doctor of Science from Art Center College of Design (USA, 1981)
- International Design Award (Japan Design Foundation, 1987)
- WORLDESIGN Award (IDSA, USA, 1988)
- The Award for contributions to Design Promotion (Japan, 1992)
- The Blue Ribbon Medal (Japan, 1992)
- JIDA Grand Prix (Japan, 1993)
- Sir Misha Black Medal (England, 1996)
- Officier de L'Ordre des Arts et des letters (France, 1997)
- Honorary Doctor form London Institute (England, 1999)
- The Order of the Rising Sun (Japan, 2000)
- Honorary Doctor form University of Art and Design Helsinki (Finland, 2001)
- Lucky Strike Designers Award (2003)
- The Insignia of Commander in the Order of the Lion of Finland (Finland, 2004)
- The International Scientific and Technological Cooperation Award of The People's Republic of China (2005)

Lifetime Achievement Award (Hong Kong Design Center, 2010)
Premio Compasso d'Oro ADI alla Carriera Internazionale (Associazione per il
Disegno Industriale, 2014)

[EXHIBITION]

The World of Kenji Ekuan and GK Design Group: Soaring High in the Sky
(Setagaya Art Museum, 2013)

[PUBLICATION]

Dougu Ko (historical and philosophical analysis of the roles of “tools” in the
life of man); published by Kajima Institute Publishing Co., Ltd. Tokyo 1967
Industrial Design (the world of Dougu, its origins, its future); published by
Japan Broadcast Publishing Co., Ltd. (NHK Book), Tokyo 1971
Design; published by Nikkei Inc., Tokyo 1972
Makunouchi Bento no Bigaku (the aesthetics of the Makunouchi Lunch Box);
Published by Goma Shobo Co., Ltd. Tokyo 1980
The Philosophy of Tools; published by PHP publishers, Kyoto 1980
The aesthetics of Japanese Lunchbox; published by MIT PRESS, USA 1998
Industrial Design is Exciting; published by KAWADE SHOBO SHINSHA,
Publishers, Tokyo 2000
The Discourses of Dougu; published by Kajima Institute Publisheing Co., Ltd.
Tokyo 2000
Raising Dougu Temple and Village; published by Kajima Institute Publishing
Co., Ltd. Tokyo 2006
Devoting Myself to Design: published by Shunju-sha Publishing Company 2009
Kesa and Design; published by Geijutsu-shuppansha Co.,Ltd. 2011