

Adopted by the Regents
May 19, 2011

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Ken K. Ito, Ph.D., professor of Japanese language and literature, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, and director of the Center for Japanese Studies, International Institute, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2011.

Professor Ito received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from Yale University in 1974, 1979, and 1985, respectively. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an instructor in 1984, and was promoted to assistant professor in 1985, associate professor in 1990, and professor in 2008.

A leading scholar of modern Japanese literature, Professor Ito authored two important monographs: *Visions of Desire: Tanizaki's Fictional Worlds* (1991) and *An Age of Melodrama: Family, Gender, and Social Hierarchy in the Turn-of-the-Century Japanese Novel* (2008). In 2010, the latter volume received the John W. Hall Prize from the Association for Asian Studies as an outstanding work in English on Japan. Professor Ito also published articles in numerous prominent journals, including the *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*. Professor Ito was a highly respected teacher of undergraduate and graduate students. He supervised ten graduate student dissertations, and many of his former students have achieved successful academic careers at leading universities. His distinguished service to the University included serving as associate chair (2004-06) and as director of undergraduate studies (2002-04, 2007-09) in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, as a member of the Academic Judiciary Committee for the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (2004-05, 2008-11), and as director of the Center for Japanese Studies (2008-11). He also served as a member of the Governing Board of the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies (1985-2010).

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and researcher by naming **Ken K. Ito professor emeritus of Japanese language and literature**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2011