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Keio University, Fujihara Memorial Faculty of Engineering Its History



GINJIRO FUJIHARA IN 1940

On June 17, 1959, our Faculty of Engineering had the twentieth anniversary of its foundation, and it was decided that a memorial volume of its Proceedings should be issued for the occasion. We consider it most meaningful at this time to recall the origin and development of the Fujihara Memorial Faculty of Engineering.

It is well known that Keio University traces its origin to the small Dutch language school opened by Yukichi Fukuzawa in 1858 in Yedo as the city of Tokyo was then called. The small school, later called Keio-gijuku, continued its steady development until it celebrated the centenary

in 1959. In 1890, three university faculties of Literature, Economics and Law were established, and in 1917 the School of Medicine was added.

Our faculty of Engineering came into being in April of 1939 according to the lofty ideals of Mr. Ginjiro Fujihara in a process which will be told below.

Strong demand for a faculty of science and engineering had existed ever since the first establishment of the university faculties. A surveying committee was

created in 1902, and in 1907 it was considered as one of the possible memorial projects for the semi-centenary. The demand for the faculty of science and engineering grew until by 1938 it was included definitely in the university policy and studies in its actual establishment was being made.

Apart from the university's planning, Mr. Ginjiro Fujihara had been considering a school of technology according to his own ideas. Having been graduated at Keio-gijuku in 1889, Mr. Fujihara had been active in business enterprises, particularly in paper manufacturing for forty-four years, finally coming to be regarded the greatest personality in the Japanese Industry. In 1938, reaching the age of seventy, he retired from the forefront of industry and turned his attention to technical education for which he had a wealth of experience as a leading manufacturer and he had been privately studying how to realized his own ideals. And as a memorial enterprise for his seventy year, he decided to throw in his own resources for the creation of an ideal school of technorogy.

Thus in June of 1938, an independent school called Fujihara Institute of Technology (Fujihara Kogyo Daigaku) was established with Dr. Shinzo Koizumi, the then President of Keio University, concurrently assuming its presidency. As one of the provisions in the constitution was that the Fujihara Institute of Technology should be annexed to Keio University after its completion, the birth of the new school meant that Keio University too had its long standing wish promised.

The facilities of Fujihara Institute of Technology were built upon the Keio University's Hiyoshi campus in Yokohama. And for the initial program, three departments of Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Applied Chemistry were decided upon and the ceremony of establishment was held on June 17, 1939.

Mr. Fujihara had recognized the shortcomings of technological education in Japan in that too much emphasis had been given to the theoretical with neglect of the practical training, and that training in foreign languages, particularly English, had been wanting, and that Japanese technicians often were weak in cultural education. Therefore, the objective in the new Institute was to develop

truly reliable engineers by means of both technological training and character building. And it will be seen that in Fujihara Institute of Technology and later in the Faculty of Engineering of Keio University, an education with a strong undercurrent of spiritual training has been administered.

In 1944 when the graduation of the first group of students was near at hand, the Fujihara Institute of Technology was dissolved according to the original provision, and its entire facilities were annexed to Keio University. This was during the difficult times of the Second World War, in August, 1944. Therefore, the first graduating class received their degree as the first graduating class of Keio University, Faculty of Engineering.

In the meanwhile the war was adding to the difficulty of developing educational facilities. However, for the purpose of training technical men in wider fields, a Department of Metallurgical Engineering was established in April, 1945.

A calamity in the form of an incendiary air bombing visited the Hiyoshi Campus on the night of April 16, 1945. The Faculty of Engineering was hit the hardest resulting in the loss of eighty percent of its floor area.

Thus a near fatal material setback was experienced in the sixth year after the foundation. The heartbreaking sorrow of Mr. Fujihara who had literally put his entire personal fortune into the school which was just beginning to demonstrate its peculiar merits according to his ideals, as well as the despair of the faculty and all those who had given their unstinted efforts in the upbuilding of the school, may well be understood.

Under the circumstance, the newly established Department of Metallurgy was abolished. And the school was obliged to move from place to place looking for facilities to continue its educational activities for some time in the former Naval Technical Research Institute in Meguro, then in the vacated factory of the Nippon Kogaku K. K. in Mizonokuchi, Kawasaki. In the meanwhile, needless to say, Mr. Fujihara and all the men concerned were engaged in indefatigable efforts in rehabilitation. In 1947 when Keio University celebrated the Ninetieth Anniversary of its foundation, the Faculty of Engineering was able to make

a definite step forward by purchasing some factory facilities in Koganei from the Yokogawa Electric Works, Ltd. through the goodwill of its management.

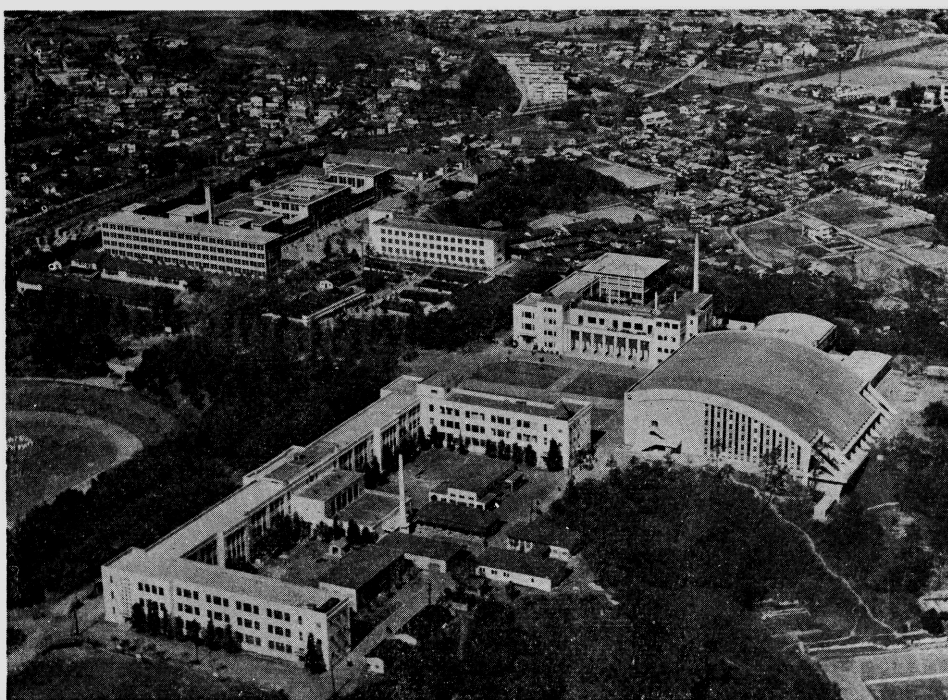
In July of 1947, announcement was made to name the Faculty, Fujihara Memorial Faculty of Engineering in order to commemorate the deeds of the founder th posterity.

The Faculty since has been active in improving its facilities. In 1949, reorganized its courses according to the new university educational system ; in 1951, the Graduate Division with Master's Courses was opened ; two years later in 1953, Doctor's Courses were added ; then two new Departments were established the Department of Instrumentation Engineering in 1957 and the Department of Administrative Engineering in 1959. Thus with the efforts of the faculty and the generous backing of friends within and without the university, our Faculty of Engineering has come to assume a position of importance in both the technical education in Japan and in various fields of research.

The Fujihara Memorial Faculty of Engineering at present is composed of five Departments Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Applied Chemistry, Instrumentation Engineering, and Administrative Engineering. The number of students is about 1500 with about 400 graduates every year. Addition of several new Departments are being planned which will cause increase in the number of students. Thus the day is anticipated in the not too distant future when this Faculty of ours should join the ranks of the first order in Japan not only in its quality but in its size also.



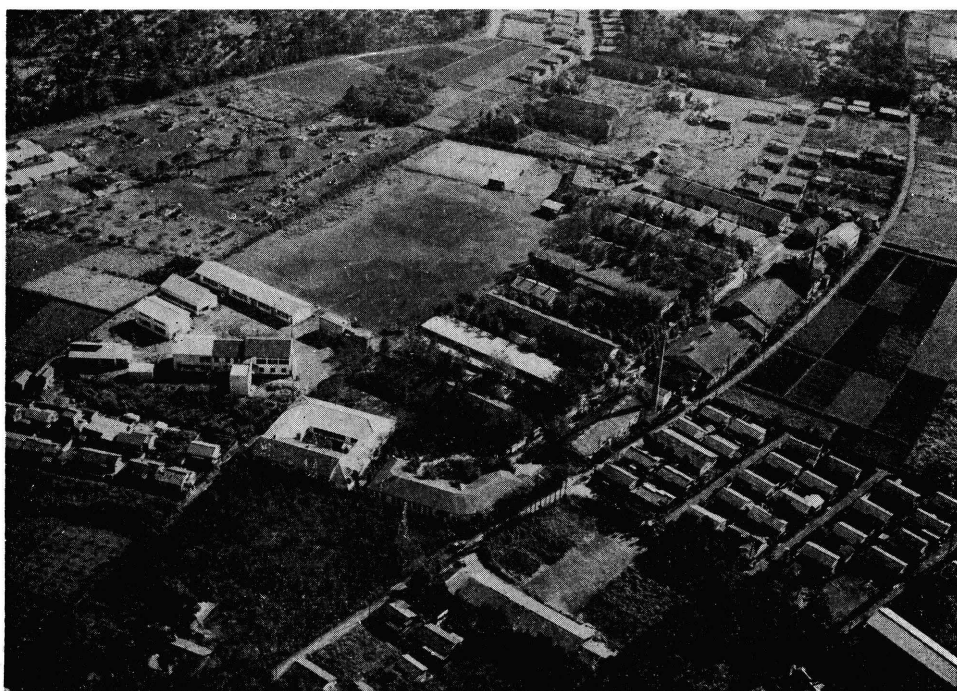
MITA CAMPUS (University, Junior High School and Girls Senior High School)



HIYOSHI CAMPUS (University, Senior High School and Junior High School)



YOTSUYA CAMPUS (Medicine and Hospital)



KOGANEI CAMPUS (Engineering)