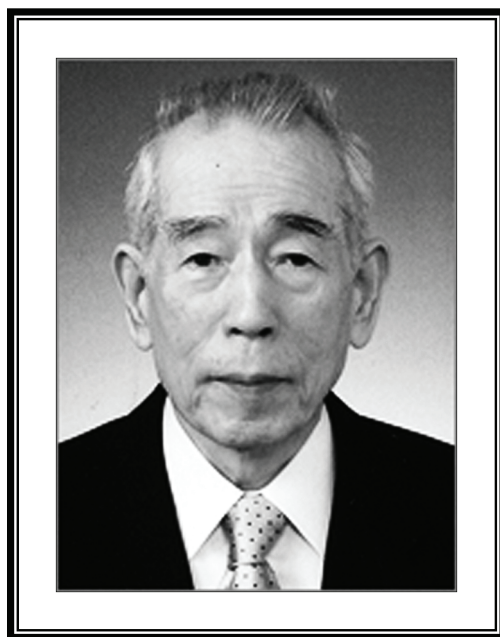

IN MEMORIAM

TATSUO NISHIDA (1929—2012)



On September 26, 2012, linguist Tatsuo Nishida died of heart failure at a hospital in Uji, Kyoto, at the age of 83. Since 1950s, Professor Nishida has studied the Tangut (Xixia) language and its characters. From 1964 to 1964, he published *Seikago no kenkyu* (“A Study of [the] Hsi-Hsia Language”). Until then, only 10 percent of about 6,300 Tangut characters had deciphered, but he decoded nearly 5,000 characters through research on the lexicon *Tongyin* and other reference materials based on *fanqie* [a traditional method of indicating the pronunciation of a character by using two other characters, the first having the same rhyme (vowel and final consonant, and tone)], which describes phonetic relations between Chinese and Tangut characters. He also contributed on comparative studies on the relationship between the Tibetan and Burmese languages. He edited and published the *Xixia Version of the Lotus Sutra from the Collection of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences* in 2005. Professor Nishida was a member of the Japan Academy.

N. Mizufune
