



Lifetime Achievement Award 2025

Prof. Noriko Iwai

Professor Noriko Iwai has been a true pioneer in the field of social survey research in Japan. Her extensive scholarly activities and her contributions through the Japanese General Social Survey (JGSS) have had a profound impact on the understanding and advancement of social indicators and survey statistics in Japan. Through the JGSS, she not only provided opportunities for successive generations of researchers to participate in real-world social survey projects, but also inspired and empowered many young scholars to broaden the horizons of their research.

In the earlier part of her career, Professor Iwai devoted herself energetically to studies in social psychology and family sociology. In 1998, together with the president of the university, Dr. Ichiro Tanioka, she played a leading role in the design and establishment of the JGSS. The first full-scale survey was launched in 2000, and since then it has been conducted more than twenty times, offering an invaluable data resource widely utilized by social science researchers in Japan and around the world. This unprecedented achievement in the history of Japanese survey research has been sustained by her outstanding leadership, supported by close collaboration with her colleagues, including her husband, the late Professor Hachiro Iwai. The JGSS has not only served as a rich data source for secondary analyses but has also become a significant platform for advancing methodological research in social surveys —yielding numerous influential scholarly contributions.

The project further expanded into an international collaborative initiative, the East Asian Social Survey (EASS), where she also played a leading role, earning the recognition and respect of project leaders across participating countries.

Professor Iwai, your tireless dedication, pioneering spirit, thoughtful mentorship of younger researchers, and profound influence on social science scholarship have left an indelible mark on the field. We express our deepest gratitude for your remarkable contributions and take great pride in presenting you with this Lifetime Achievement Award.

Linda Luz Guerra
President

Matthew Gray
Vice President

Jibum Kim
Past President