

***Eulogy by Professor Konosuke Odaka, 2nd October, 2007***

Congratulations, Professor Maddison!

It is my honor and pleasure to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Honorary Doctor Professor Angus Maddison. Professor Maddison distinguishes himself for quite a few things. I shall mention only a few of them by way of drawing your attention to their significance. First of all, Professor Maddison has been extraordinarily active intellectually; this is evidenced by the publication of a new, voluminous book just about a week ago, entitled *Contours of the World Economy, 1-2030 AD*, published by Oxford University Press. Beginning with a fresh exploration of the socio-economic aspects of the Roman Empire, asking why it succeeded in retaining its political power for such a long time over so wide a geographical area and estimating its population and GDP, the volume proceeds to evaluate the early estimates of British GDP by Sir William Petty and Gregory King, and ends by going into a highly important issue of today, namely global warming and deterioration of the natural environment, discussing politico-economic implications of the problem. To deal with such a variety of topics while keeping the readers excited all the way through, is something only a scholar of standing can do. I am very much impressed.

Secondly, his research extends to even small, minor corners of the planet earth. He is well informed about many detailed aspects of global economic history from Argentina to Zambia, and from the first to the twenty-first centuries. This indeed is a very rare accomplishment.

Thirdly, I take special note of the outstanding transparency that characterizes Professor Maddison's research methodology, which lays down before his audience all the source materials that have been used, and spells out in detail the procedure and computation methods employed in reaching the final estimates. As a result, his research outcomes are entirely reproducible. Or, to put it another way, anyone who wishes to challenge his conclusions may do so by following his steps in calculating per capita real GDP of a specified time and place. This may sound nothing spectacular, but actually is not at all easy to practice in social sciences even today. Herein lies another reason why I pay high respect to him.

It was well over a quarter century ago when I first heard of Professor Maddison from the lips of the late Professor Emeritus Kazushi Ohkawa of this university, a well-known estimator of modern Japanese GDP. We should not forget, however, that there was an important predecessor of Japanese national income estimation, namely the late Professor Emeritus Yuzu Yamada, also of this institution. One may say that this university has been destined historically to have close ties with Professor Maddison. Therefore it is immensely pleasing to us that Professor Maddison is now not only academically but institutionally associated with Hitotsubashi University.