

THE TRILATERAL COMMISSION (EUROPE)

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A TRIBUTE TO TADASHI YAMAMOTO

We worked together for seventeen years. For me, as for all of us, he always was and will remain, Tadashi. Not because we followed the American Christian-name habit, but because his direct, friendly personality belonged to the civil society. As such, like in all countries, he was at the avant-garde helping respectable traditions to adapt smoothly to future facts of life.

In doing so, he was a perfect Japanese patriot who understood and represented his country by instinct and education. Thanks to these exceptional gifts, he was able, within so many organizations, in particular as one of the founder of the Trilateral Commission, to explain to foreigners or even former enemies, the revival of his country, and create not only understanding but respect for Japan. And in a reciprocal effort, he succeeded in opening the minds of his compatriots to the realities and complexities of the outside world.

Tadashi belongs to the small group of people in the world who were able, discreetly and constantly, to shape mankind's history through their influence and wisdom on those passing for a while under the spotlights of power. In doing so, he contributed through an exhausting amount of personal dedication and work, to the future global governance, which is bound to emerge from our present travails. Then, he will find his proper place among those revered by future generations as the true pioneers of their better world he worked and prayed for.

As the Commission gathers in Tokyo for its annual meeting, what better location to commemorate Tadashi's memory in the very country and city where Trilateral was launched in 1975.

*Tokyo Plenary Meeting
21st April 2012*