Timothy Charles Whitmore
The great tropical botanist Dr. Timothy C. Whitmore passed away on 14 February, 2002.

No tropical forest ecologist would exist without possessing any book written by Tim. Particularly for us in Asia, his "Tropical Rain Forests of The Far East" (1975; 1984) is a kind of bible. The textbook "An Introduction to Tropical Rain Forests" (1990) has been translated to Japanese. His theory of gap-phase dynamics based on the study of Kolombangara Island (1974) gave us very strong influence. As the experienced tropical tree taxonomist, he produced a pile of invaluable tree floras, manuals and checklists, including "Tree Flora of Malaya" (1972, 1983), thorough syntheses of evolutionary biogeography, and of rain forest conservation.

Tim's longest stay in Japan is when he was the visiting professor in Ehime University with Mrs. Wendy Whitmore, in 1993, hosted by Professor Kazuhiko Ogino. He made a vigorous visits and observations over the country, and made meetings with many Japanese tropical botanists and foresters.

Since I first met famous Tim Whitmore at Bogor in 1984, I have been fortunate to meet and talk to him in various occasions over the world. Among these, I particularly remember when my wife and I were invited in Lion House (the name of his house) in Cambridge on a beautiful day in 1992 when we enjoyed tea, including the late Professor Paul W. Richards.

Perhaps I am the last Japanese who could hear Tim's speech. It was on 25 May 2001 in Cambridge, on the gathering of celebrating the semi-retirement of Professor Peter Grubb, Tim's long close friend. He gave us cheerful, humorous, and touching speech around their Ecuador expedition in 1960, hiding his difficulty when he had already been affected for a couple of years.

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