

**Kenichi Fukui** was co-recipient (together with Roald Hoffmann) of the 1981 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his “frontier orbital theory” concerning the course of chemical reactions. While he began his career as an experimentalist, in the course of his investigation of organic reactions he built up a subgroup of theoreticians. In 1952, Dr. Fukui discovered the correlation between the frontier orbital density and the chemical reactivity in aromatic hydrocarbons, leading to the development of the more general chemical reactivity theory by his group. Dr. Fukui was a professor at Kyoto University from 1945 until 1982, when he assumed the presidency of the Kyoto Institute of Technology for six years. In 1988, he became the founding director of the Institute for Fundamental Chemistry, also in Kyoto. He is a foreign associate of the National Academy of Sciences, a foreign member of the Royal Society, and has been honoured with many other memberships and awards.