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Tar-Ching Aw, 1948-2017

I first met Prof. Tar-Ching Aw in Luxembourg in 1994, when he was working as a member of the expert group in charge of the preparation of a EU document on Criteria for Diagnosis and Compensation of Occupational diseases. I was immediately impressed by his broad occupational health culture, his passion, and his ability to communicate with people. For his exceptional capacities, he became the chair of the second EU working group, established in 2003, and drove a large expert group to the preparation of the text "Information Notices on Diagnosis of Occupational Diseases". Meanwhile, he worked at the Institute of Occupational Health, University of Birmingham, UK, then moved to the University of Kent in Canterbury, and finally to the Department of Community Medicine at the United Arab Emirates University. He was also consultant at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health in Cincinnati, USA, and served as WHO and ILO consultant, and as an elected Board member of the International Commission on Occupational Health. He visited several times our Clinica

del Lavoro in Milano and was always very interested in our activities and projects. The last time I met him was at the end of last June, during the expert meeting in charge of the preparation of the criteria for diagnosis, compensation and prevention of the diseases listed in the new ILO list of occupational diseases. As usually, he impressed all of us with his culture, his enthusiasm and his working capacity. When we said "good bye" at the end of the meeting, I would never have imagined it would be for the last time... The Occupational Health Community has lost a great member, and I have lost an old and good friend. However, I think that Prof. Tar-Ching Aw's legacy will live on forever thanks to his scientific works. Now I really understand what the ancient Latin poet Horace meant when he wrote "Non omnis moriar"...

Claudio Colosio

Associate Professor of Occupational Health
Department of Health Sciences
University of Milan