Masao Kotani 1906-93

Distinguished Japanese theorist
Masao Kotani died on 6 June. Outstanding contributions over a wide fields of science, covering atomic and molecular physics, molecular biophysics and information science, earned him the premier Japanese award, the Order of Culture, in 1980 in the presence of the Emperor.

After World War II, his efforts helped Japanese physics to take its rightful place on the world stage. He also played an important role in establishing the KEK Laboratory. His students included former director of Tokyo’s Institute for Nuclear Study Yoshio Yamaguchi and first KEK Director Shigeki Suwa.