

**JAPAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS**  
**2008 ALL JAPAN RESEARCH MEETING RES-07 REPORT**

**GOOD INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE PUBLIC, AND THE TECHNOLOGY AND TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS SUPPORTING IT**

Chairman: Hirotaka Kawano (Kyoto University)  
Presenters of topics: Satakeo Obara (Sendai resident)  
Ichiro Iwaki (Nihon University)  
Hiro Yokota (Port and Airport Research Institute)  
Takashi Maruya (Taisei Corporation)  
Yoshikazu Hoda (Newjec Inc.)

A research meeting was organized by the Concrete Committee on September 10 (Wednesday) at Kawauchikita Campus of Tohoku University, during the 2008 Annual Conference. The theme was “Good infrastructure for the public and the technology and technology systems supporting it.” The topics were presented by the 5 presenters of topics, under the direction of the chairman, Professor Hirotaka Kawano of Kyoto University, and then these topics were discussed for one hour. There were 80 participants, and there were many opinions and questions from the floor, resulting in a lively debate.

This research meeting was held to introduce the details of the investigations of the “Concrete Structures Infrastructure Management Sub-committee” (July 2007 – March 2008) on “Research on Concrete Structures Infrastructure Management” which was carried out as an “Important research Topic” under assistance from the Japan Society of Civil Engineers in 2007. The main topics were as follows.

“To provide good infrastructure for the public, advanced technology in a broad range of fields is necessary. However, the number of engineers involved in the provision and maintenance of social capital is decreasing, and investment in infrastructure is dwindling. Under these circumstances it is necessary for civil engineers to form organic links with the users, namely the public and society, through all stages of infrastructure planning, design, construction, and maintenance, in order to be best positioned to create, maintain, and use high quality structures. In the research discussion meeting, what constitutes good infrastructure for the public (concrete structures), how infrastructure management should be implemented to support this, what the stance of engineers to this should be, and what the Japan Society of Civil Engineers should do about this was discussed.”

The following is a simple summary of the main details.

- What kind of structures does the public consider to be good infrastructure. Normally the public does not pay much attention to quality, etc., but they first become aware of it when an accident occurs.
- It was proposed that good infrastructure for the public is “something continuous, like air, that supports people’s lifestyle in the background, whose convenience is not felt by the user, but its necessity is first felt when it is not there. However, opinions were expressed that it was not a good thing for infrastructure to be not understood, “like the existence of

air," and that the people should have an understanding of infrastructure that is better than that of air.

- There is a need to consider what information can be provided and what can be done to gain users' understanding of the state and significance of infrastructure, because obtaining a good evaluation from the public gives engineers a sense of worth and motivation.
- It is necessary for managers and engineers to spend more time and money providing information to not only the public, but also to the young engineers regarding the present state and significance of infrastructure, the state of degradation, and the effect of maintenance management and strengthening, etc.
- In order for managers and engineers to manage infrastructure for the public good, raising the understanding of infrastructure and responsibilities, honors, and reward are necessary. The result is expected to be an improved level of technology.

Many opinions other than the above were expressed. The sub-committee will spend a further 2 years investigating this topic as the "Concrete structures infrastructure management research sub-committee," using these opinions for reference, and the sub-committee is scheduled to summarize the findings on "Good infrastructure for the public, and the technology and technological systems supporting it."



Photo 1 Chairman and topic presenters



Photo 2 Scene in the meeting room