

Happy New Year 2020.

The Summer Olympics come to Japan this year, 56 years since we last hosted the games. Back then, in preparation for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, the first Shinkansen (bullet train) between Tokyo and Osaka came into service and construction of the Tokyo Metropolitan Expressway began. These and other infrastructure projects have supported more than half a century of Japan's industrial development, economic growth and social improvement. Today, a major technical challenge in civil engineering is how to efficiently maintain and manage existing infrastructure such as this, working toward a sustainable society that operates in harmony with the environment.

On the other hand, the threat of natural disasters such as the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011, repeated earthquakes and typhoon-related flooding demands that we put unrelenting effort into building resilient infrastructure. Researchers and engineers in the field of concrete technology will play an increasingly important role in meeting these demands by building quality infrastructure that will be handed on to future generations. Further, as the development of infrastructure projects becomes more global, international information exchanges and collaborations in concrete technology, standards and codes is indisputably becoming more important.

The Concrete Committee of the Japan Society of Civil Engineers is a permanent organization of concrete engineers from industry, government and academia. Our main task is to promote research into concrete materials and structures, to develop standards and to implement them in society. The results of our work so far have been published as the JSCE Standard Specifications of Concrete Structures, which this year we will update in preparation for a new edition, and various technical documents and guidelines. Some of these have been translated into English for international use.

May 2020 be a good year for all of you, both in your work as engineers and in your private life.

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