

Best wishes as we enter the year 2022.

The Concrete Committee of the Japan Society of Civil Engineers has played a historical role in the development of concrete science and technology in Japan, having been established as the Concrete Research Committee of the JSCE in 1928. Its main activity is to periodically revise, publish and ensure implementation of the JSCE Standard Specifications for Concrete Structures, which were first published in 1931, ensuring that they keep up with progress in concrete technology and changes in industrial conditions. Currently, intensive revision is going on in preparation for the next edition, which we expect to deliver in 2023.

Over the years, the Concrete Committee has also established various subcommittees to investigate multifaceted aspects of concrete engineering. In November 2021 we established the "Research subcommittee on the implementation of new technologies for achieving carbon neutrality in the concrete field". This new subcommittee will discuss new technologies that can contribute to a carbon neutral economy in line with "Green Growth Strategy for Carbon Neutral by 2050", the Japanese Government's response to the global challenge of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The cement and concrete industry is described in this strategy as one of 14 industries that are expected to grow by 2050.

Another important responsibility of the Concrete Committee is to help train the researchers and engineers who will develop future concrete technology and become future academics. To this end, we are planning to establish another subcommittee on education in the field of concrete engineering and related subjects at universities and technical colleges.

The Concrete Committee is also active in the provision and exchange of information internationally. We aim to publish the latest information through regular newsletters and we also hold international seminars. COVID-19 has made international travel difficult, but we have been able to put on several online seminars on contemporary topics by outstanding Japanese researchers.

In 2022, the Concrete Committee will continue making every effort to further develop concrete technology and contribute to society by disseminating the results.

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