



Japan Society of Civil Engineers
International Activities Committee

Newsletter

No. 8 September 2002

Interview with President KISHI



JSCE President Kiyoshi KISHI

I feel that the reputation of the civil engineering industry is deteriorating in Japan over the last decade. A mere 20% to 30% of the entire picture is blown out of proportion to highlight negative aspects that are extracted and reported through the media as though they represent the whole. This serves to ingrain a negative image of the civil engineering industry in the minds of the uninformed public, students, and children. I take this as a challenge which I must overcome, and hope to do so by creating a system that will make it possible for us to convey the importance of adequate provision of social capital to the public, as well as an accurate picture of reality as it stands for the civil engineering profession.

Although much misguided information is passed along to the public by the media, we cannot, on the other hand, deny the fact that efforts on part of the civil engineering community to provide sufficient explanations were inadequate. Recently, much emphasis is being placed on “accountability,” but the term is not limited to the duty to provide explanations. It represents the responsibility to provide convincing and satisfactory explanations. This requires effort, as well as technique.

Over the last few years, JSCE has persevered in its efforts to become a more open society to the public in various ways. It has, in

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some ways, achieved that goal. Nevertheless, we must find means to further promote that goal. This is why an avenue for interactive communication becomes important.

The idea of the “two-way communication scheme” is to provide simple, easy-to-understand answers to the public. For example, JSCE can use its website to introduce its views and comments to the public and respond to any opinions or inquiries received through the website. Explanations using simple and easy-to-understand terms and logic to the public require skill. Skilled personnel are indispensable to the success of this scheme, and therefore may take some time before the scheme could be realized.

The role of the civil engineering community is to provide the country with social capital, which is crucial to any country. A disdain or denial of such important factors is simply not plausible. Not all projects are destined to fulfil their initially anticipated objectives, or measure up to primary expectations. Nevertheless, there are still many projects that have dutifully realized their functions, and JSCE must strive to emphasize these positive aspects, which tend to be taken for granted.

Every project has its functions, and the civil engineering community must adequately convey the purpose and the necessity of these projects. Disaster measures are much required in this country, and highways, railroads and airports are still insufficient. There will always be various tasks for the civil engineering industry for as long as there are necessities to be taken care of.

Profile:

Dr. Kiyoshi KISHI was appointed the 90th JSCE President on May 31, 2002. Since joining Tokyo Electric Power Company in 1960, he has long engaged in various research projects regarding active faults, geological and geotechnical engineering to study earthquake-resistance measures for nuclear power plants. He is now a leading figure in this field.

New Agreements of Cooperation

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers



Prof. Fujino (left) shaking hands with Dr. Chow (right)

We concluded our 20th Agreement of Cooperation with The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers on May 30, 2002. The Signing Ceremony was held at HKIE Headquarters in Hong Kong, where Prof. Fujino (University of Tokyo), Secretary General of the JSCE International Activities Committee and Mr. Kumagai of International Affairs Section took part as JSCE representatives, and Mr. Tsutomu Osawa, Acting Consul General at The Consulate General of Japan in Hong Kong also took part to witness the signing.

Exchanges among engineers in Hong Kong and Japan are expected to further increase in the future, and mutual ties shall grow even stronger not only within the context of the APEC framework, but in terms of education and qualification systems as well.

The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia



Dr. Yoshida (left) and Ir. Onn (right)

On June 5, representatives of JSCE were received at the Headquarters of The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM) to deliver the Agreement of Cooperation signed between JSCE and IEM. Participants include Ir. Lee Weng Onn

(Honorary Secretary), Ir. Kok Hee Poh (Executive Secretary) and Ir. Chee Meng Sang (Council Member) from the IEM side, and Mr. Yoshihiro Kakishita (First Secretary at the Japanese Embassy, JSCE Member) and Dr. Yoshitaka Yoshida (JICA Expert on Bridge Engineering at Public Works Department of Malaysia, JSCE Member) from JSCE.

We are looking forward to joining hands to tackle issues of common concerns, including environmental problems, where IEM has a keen interest.

The Mongolian Association of Civil Engineers



Dr. Ganzorig (left) and Mr. Shimazu (right)

Mr. Akiomi Shimazu (JSCE Fellow) of Central Consultant Inc. visited the Headquarters of Mongolian Association of Civil Engineers (MACE) located in Ulaanbaatar in June to deliver JSCE's 21st Agreement of Cooperation. MACE President Dr. Erdene Ganzorig, Executive Director Mr. Baasankhuu Gantumur, and 6 other members of the MACE Executive Committee were present at the signing ceremony held on June 20.

President Ganzorig expressed MACE's desire to actively absorb technologies from abroad, especially those related to quake-resistant engineering in Japan. Mr. Shimazu stated that this Agreement established between MACE and JSCE would surely be beneficial to both.

2002 JSCE Award Winners

The 2002 JSCE Awards were presented at the 88th JSCE General Assembly held on May 31, 2002. The winners of the following awards are listed in the JSCE English website (<http://www.jsce.or.jp>):

- International Awards
- Continuing International Contribution Award
- Tanaka Award
- Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award (includes technical reports)

Assisting the Reconstruction of Afghanistan



*Map of Afghanistan
(Courtesy of The General Libraries,
The University of Texas at Austin)*

JSCE began deliberations in the newly established “deliberative meeting” (Chair: Prof. NISHINO Fumio, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies) on how to shape the reconstruction of Afghanistan. JSCE is an NGO which is composed of approximately 35,000 civil engineers and researchers. It supported Japan’s post war reconstruction and national land development, and dispatches investigation teams both domestically and abroad for such disasters as the Kobe Earthquake to actively contribute to the development of restoration and reconstruction plans. Based on these experiences, JSCE will cooperate with the Afghanistan Academia to work out a reconstruction plan for Afghanistan, aiming to take part in the formulation of a “Vision for the Reconstruction of Afghanistan” which is to be put together through joint efforts by the Afghanistan Government and the international community. Although the concept and vision of Afghanistan’s reconstruction ought to be determined by the people of Afghanistan themselves, since Japan is one of the few countries to experience post-war reconstruction, and because Afghanistan and Japan are both part of Asia, Japan’s active participation is anticipated. JSCE organized a “meeting” consisting of such experts in national development planning, regional development and infrastructure development. In addition to discussing measures from a professional standpoint, these experts will also dispatch an investigation team to Afghanistan at the earliest possible to prepare for a wide-ranged opinion exchange with the Afghanistan

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Government and related countries and organizations. UN-HABITAT Fukuoka Office provides various data and will be in charge of communicating and coordinating with those on the scene.

After two decades of conflict, the land of Afghanistan is left on the brink of devastation. Recent surveys show that the destruction of bridges and tunnels, severed road networks, and groundwater pollution are among the most serious problems. The International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan confirmed that priority would be placed on education, health and infrastructure development, which are the key areas of reconstruction. Participating countries pledged a total of \$4.5 billion for Afghan’s reconstruction, and the countries and international organizations are currently seeking specific assistance measures. Since it must cover multiple fields and extend over a number of regions, and since the assisting bodies consist of various countries and organizations, careful consideration must be given so that the overall aid will not become inconsistent or inefficient. For that purpose, it is essential that a basic concept and vision be drawn up immediately and be shared by the Afghanistan Government, the people of Afghanistan, and by all assisting bodies. Accordingly, the deliberations of JSCE will not be based on individual projects, but rather aim toward establishing a bright vision, one that symbolizes the reconciliation of the Afghan people, and one that can serve as an objective for the Afghan people in its reconstruction.

“Civil Engineering, JSCE” on the Web

From October 2002, “Civil Engineering, JSCE” will become an electronic publication on the JSCE website! October articles include:

1. Transition of City Planning, by Prof. TSUKIO Yoshio (Tokyo Univ.)
2. The Government Policy to Centralize Offices and Residences in the City Center, by Dr. HATTA Tatsuo (Tokyo Univ.)
3. Town Planning or District Planning under the Decentralization Policy – Experiencing the Post-Disaster Town Planning, by Mr. KATAYAMA Yoshihiro (Governor, Tottori Prefecture)
4. Can We Save the World from a Water Crisis?, by Prof. TAKEICHI Kuniyoshi (Yamanashi Univ.)
5. Worldwide Water Conflicts, by Prof. NAKAYAMA Mikihiro (Tokyo Univ. of Agriculture & Technology)
6. Round-table Discussion on “Actions We Must Take”, Assoc. Prof. OKI Taikan (Tokyo Univ.)

Momentous Experience in Receiving the JSCE Thesis Award



Dr. Walter O. Oyawa

I attended the 88th JSCE General Meeting on 31 May 2002 in Tokyo to receive the best Technical Paper (Thesis) Award (Structural Engineering Division) for year 2001. My Professors and I were awarded medals and certificates signed by the president of JSCE. The paper was titled "Effects of Multi-Directional Displacement Paths on the Cyclic Behaviour of Rectangular Hollow Steel Columns," motivated by the 1995 Hanshin Awaji (Kobe) Earthquake that killed about 5,500 people and resulted in unprecedented severe destruction to infrastructure amounting to an economic loss of about US\$ 100 billion. By employing state-of-the-art multi-directional testing system, the study simulated the possible causes of the severe damage, and provided likely means of assessing and mitigating the effects of such high intensity earthquakes in the future. It was a unique and momentous experience to receive such a prestigious award. I learned that this was perhaps the first time such an award had been given to a paper written in English, and first time to an African. I am most grateful to Prof. Eiichi Watanabe and Assoc. Prof. Kunitomo Sugiura of Kyoto University for their tireless guidance, and for placing highly advanced equipment/machinery at my disposal to contribute to this success.

My current research is related to the development of local materials for the construction of low-cost infrastructure in African countries and is funded by African Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD) through JICA. I also wish to express my deep gratitude to the administration of JKUAT.

*Dr. Walter Odhiambo Oyawa,
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and
Technology (JKUAT)*

Publications

ARTICLES (From February to August 2002)

Standard Specifications for Concrete Structures 2002 (In Japanese)

- Structural Performance Verification, JSCE, March 2002, 257 pages, Price: ¥5,040 (US\$58.00), [ISBN4- 8106-0241-9](#)
- Materials and Construction, JSCE, March 2002, 380 pages, Price: ¥5,460 (US\$62.00), [ISBN4- 8106-0242-7](#)
- Paving, JSCE, March 2002, 212 pages, Price: ¥5,040 (US\$58.00), [ISBN4- 8106-0245-1](#)
- Dam Concrete, JSCE, March 2002, 65 pages, Price: ¥3,780 (US\$46.00), [ISBN4- 8106-0246-X](#)
- Test Methods and Specifications, JSCE, March 2002, 271+471 pages, Price: ¥6,510 (US\$80.00), [ISBN4- 8106-0249-4](#)

Recommendations for Erection Design and Construction of Steel Structures 2001 (In Japanese), JSCE, March 2002, 242 pages, Price: ¥5,775 (US\$65.00), [ISBN4-8106-0254-0](#)

Structural Engineering/Earthquake Engineering Vol.19 No.1, JSCE, May 2002, 638 pages, Price: ¥2,039 (US\$27.00), [ISSN 0289-8063](#)

Journal of Hydrosience and Hydraulic Engineering Vol.20 No.1, JSCE, May 2002, 186 pages, Price: ¥3,150 (US\$41.00), [ISSN 0912-2508](#)

Concrete Library International No.39, JSCE, June 2002, CD-ROM
Price: ¥3,150 (US\$41.00), [ISSN 1347-2119](#)

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