



# Japan Society of Civil Engineers International Activities Committee Newsletter

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## Sharing Civil Engineering Technologies in Asian Region



*GOTO Yoshiaki, Dr. Eng.  
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Last June, I was nominated as a Vice Chair of the International Activities Committee (IAC) after being elected as a JSCE Director of International Affairs. My major is structural engineering and seismic engineering. In this area, I have both officially and privately participated in a lot of international activities such as organization of international conferences, international cooperative researches, publication of books and papers, and so on. Furthermore, I have supervised many international students as Ph.D candidates at my university. However, as a Vice Chair of IAC, I would like to contribute to JSCE international activities from a broader viewpoint in order to raise the global status of civil engineering and to promote the international friendship.

It is regrettable to say that the international presence of Japanese civil engineering has been diminishing recently partly due to the decrease in the public construction investment. To make the matter worse, nowadays Japanese youths are not so much interested in civil engineering. As a matter of fact, it often happens in my research area that few young Japanese researchers make presentations at international conferences. In contrast, the presentations by Chinese researchers have been increasing remarkably, accelerated by its economic development. Such being the case, I am afraid if the Japanese advanced civil technologies will not be adequately transferred to the next generation. I firmly think that the cooperation with the youths in Asian region is essential to make this technology transfer successful.

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