

New Year's greeting 2018



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The year of 2017 has been a happy one for JSCE and the Concrete Committee. Some of the proposals that we submitted to the government and public organizations have been accepted, and some have even been implemented with regard to new orders for contracts relating to the workability of fresh concrete in public works, new provisions for structural joints, and other areas. First of all, I really appreciate the great efforts that have been made by JSCE members and by both public and private organizations. I understand that we civil and concrete engineers are still working toward our goals and that we have to continue our efforts. The rapid shrinking of the Japanese population is a background circumstance that affects all sectors, and it's now understood that reform of the current systems (which are rooted in the past of the concrete industry) is of critical importance for all.

In 2018 the Concrete Committee is expected to act as the body that takes the lead in developing innovative technologies and implementing them in the real world. For that to happen, it's crucial that various business sectors, disciplines, and professions transcend the boundaries currently separating them from one another and stay in continuous communication. Next March and April, new and revised standard specifications for design and construction will be established, followed in the latter half of 2018 by new ones for maintenance. Although the code business is tough for all members, the Committee Board and I are going to discuss the possible inauguration of some new committees that would further improve concrete design and construction. I cordially call on all JSCE members and engineers to continue giving their cooperation.

The next decade will be a time of change in Japan and other Asian societies and will be accompanied by unavoidable social reform. Some of the measures aimed at meeting these challenges will be showcases for concrete engineering, and we want to move ahead with all of you. I hope that 2018 is a happy and productive year for you!