My engineering experience in Japan

Chunliang ZHU
Civil engineer
Civil Engineering Headquarters, Shimizu Corporation

I am Chunliang ZHU, a civil engineer at Shimizu Corporation. I'm a member of the Civil Engineering Headquarters. I'm delighted to have this opportunity to share my experiences of working in Japan.

I am from Hefei, the capital and largest city of Anhui province in China. My major was urban design when I was an undergraduate in China. However, I preferred to learn more about concrete, so I changed my field to civil engineering after coming to Japan. I studied "Accelerated Bridge Construction" technology for two years in the Akiyama Lab at Waseda University and received my master's degree.

There are two main reasons why I decided to study and work in Japan. First, Japan has advanced technology in the civil engineering field. Second, I had a comfortable work environment during my internship.

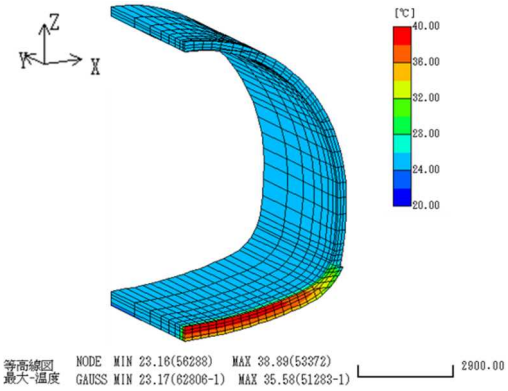
I work at a Japan-based construction company called Shimizu Corporation. The company operates in two business segments: the construction and investment development segments. In addition, Shimizu Corporation is involved in architecture, civil engineering, overseas construction, etc. I was assigned to the Infrastructure Department at the Civil Engineering Headquarters.

The Infrastructure Department consists of the geotechnical group, the foundation engineering group, and the concrete group. I am a member of the concrete group, which provides technical support and technology development. When construction sites have problems related to concrete, we offer technical support. For example, we simulate transient thermal conduction using a nonlinear thermal stress analysis program. We also conduct stress analysis of mass concrete structures to prevent thermal cracks after casting. It was not easy for me to learn the standards from JSCE and JCI to use this analysis program, and it was difficult for me to make a judgment based on the results of the analysis. To prevent defects during casting, we test concrete during the preparation stage in the laboratory. We also develop technologies for new materials and construction methods and special concretes.

I am satisfied with my job in the concrete group because I feel that the managers listen to me and respond to my needs. In the next few years, I plan to move to the construction site because I can better study practical civil engineering. I will also move to the international civil engineering division.

In my opinion, Japan is an excellent place to work and live. The Japanese people are very polite and kind. They are never stingy about sharing knowledge with me when I ask them. They are also punctual and hard-working, and I can trust them. I think working in Japan will be the great life experience I have been seeking for a long time.

Experiment in the laboratory



Nonlinear thermal stress analysis program
(1/2 of a tunnel lining concrete model)

Online party with my coworkers

Delicious Japanese food