



Japan Society of Civil Engineers

International Activities Committee

Newsletter

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Contents

JSCE International Awardee -----p.2	Report of International Activities -----p.5
2008 JSCE Annual Meeting in Sendai -----p.2	Project Report from Algeria -----p.6
Civil Engineering Design Prize, JSCE -----p.3	Student Network -----p.7

Greetings from President of JSCE



KAYAHARA Hideo
President

I was elected in May this year as the President of JSCE for the 2008/2009 term.

I have been the Chairman of the Ports and Harbours Association Japan since 1998 when I retired from the Government service. Before then I had been working as a government official for the Ministry of Transport, the Economic Planning Agency and the National Land Agency, mainly in the field of port planning and engineering as well as strategic planning such as Comprehensive National Development Plans, for more than 34 years since my university graduation of Civil Engineering Department. The Vice Minister for Transport in technical affairs, after the Director General of Ports and Harbours Bureau, was my last professional career in the government service.

As a member of JSCE, I have been actively involved in various activities of the society which include as an editorial committee member when I was very young, and later on as one of the Vice Presidents when colleague board members and I contributed to establishing fellow membership and the certificated engineers system of JSCE.

Strong winds are now blowing in Japan against public works for infrastructural investments and civil engineers as well. Decreasing numbers of the applicants for the civil engineering departments in higher education clearly depicts this trend. As the President of JSCE, it will be my first job, on the one hand, to continue my best efforts in explaining citizens the significance of civil engineering, on the other, to sincerely listen to their criticism. It is my firm belief that the future of the country will be shaded without stable improvement and maintenance of social infrastructures, nor sufficient numbers of engineers in succeeding generation who would be responsible for these works. Already I have committed as the President to a new movement which will make the responsible and devoted engineers apparent on the project sites such as bridges, dams and port facilities etc., in wishing this would provide chances for better understandings of citizens on the significance of infrastructure, and for giving aspirations to the young to consider civil engineering as his or her future career. (continue page2)