



# Japan Society of Civil Engineers International Activities Committee Newsletter

No. 26, September 2008

June 2008- May 2009

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## Doors of engineers' interaction and windows of information always open to our colleagues overseas!



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As is often the case in so many industrial fields, Japanese standards or Japanese common practices in heavy construction fields are quite peculiar or native from global point of view. Some are baseless or complete nonsense, but others are related to Japanese natural features such as steep terrain in rather small country, frequent earthquakes due to jarring plate tectonics, highly developed and populated cities on very soft alluvial soils, high groundwater level, and etc.

To those baseless practices we have to learn through international interactive activities and to re-fix our engineering and construction practice so that our limited budget for the infrastructural investment should be effectively and appropriately allocated. On the other hand, Japanese engineering and technologies developed from its natural and national needs could be well and reasonably applicable to many other nations under similar natural features as well as national environments.

Some examples of the latter case in Japanese state-of-the-art shield tunneling for railway and road construction are shown in figure 1 to 5. These examples have some keywords in common, which are "soft soils", "high groundwater pressure", "underground development in busy urban area", "tunnel solution without cut-and-cover procedure", "large bore", "long bore", "deep bore".

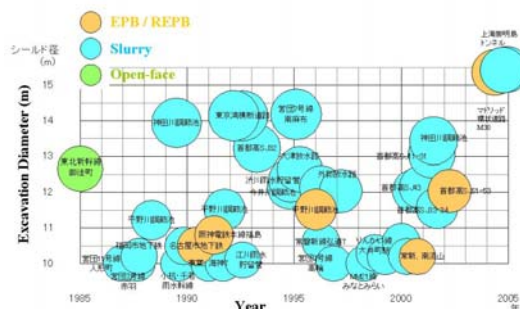


Figure 1-1 Large circular shield with excavation diameter of 10m or over  
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