



Newsletter

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The Inauguration of the 98th President Prof. Kenji Sakata, JSCE Fellow



SAKATA Kenji, Dr. Eng.
President of JSCE

Emeritus Professor of Okayama University

I was appointed the 98th JSCE President (2010-2011 Term) in this May. I completed my tenure as a professor at Okayama University in March 2009 after I served as an educator and researcher in the concrete engineering discipline for more than thirty years. Within the JSCE, I worked with mainly Concrete Committee, and from 2006 to 2008 did as the board member who supervised the operation of Research and Studies Division as holding the vice president position. While working with the JSCE, I served as the president of Japan Concrete Institute from 2008 to 2010 and of Japan Society of Dam Engineers from 2009 to 2010.

I view that the year 2010 will become a new beginning for the JSCE as a public interest incorporated association. The JSCE, whose activity is public-interest oriented, will need to shape its business plan and operation to more focus on the contribution to society and human well-being.

Also, the year 2014 marks the JSCE's 100th anniversary. There are a few years left till then. It should be the time for us the JSCE members to review our activities and accomplishments for the past hundred years, to draw a future vision, and to plan strategies to realize that vision in the next hundred years.

Outside the JSCE, we have seen political chaos like a change of power and the resignation of the prime minister one after another and a significant cut in public investment in infrastructure development. We should squarely face these baffling situations and their impact on the civil engineering industry, and then make the best move using our wisdom and knowledge to perform our professional roles, duties and responsibilities for society. I would like to remind us all that civil engineering is the engineering to contribute to society and human well-being.