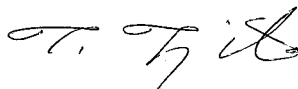


FOREWARD

Japan is the country where seismic isolation is most widely used for civil engineering structures in the world. Particularly, after the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 17 January, 1995 in which effectiveness of the seismic isolation was demonstrated, base-isolated buildings and bridges became more popular. I feel proud that I could contribute to this progress of the seismic isolation as one of the pioneers in research and development of seismic isolation rubber bearings in Japan.

After the earthquake, the seismic isolation has begun to be applied to tall buildings of about 100 m heights, and the rubber bearings have begun to be installed in not only the bases of the buildings but also the intermediate stories of them. Furthermore, non-rubber type seismic isolation systems using mechanical bearings such as ball bearings, roller bearings and sliding bearings have begun to be used for wooden houses. Thus the seismic isolation technology is being diversified in applications and devices used.



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