

NEWS

Professor David Muir Wood, University of Bristol, UK, had a 50 days sabbatical stay (April 23 – June 10, 2003) at IIS, University of Tokyo, and Prof. Konagai hosted his stay. Prof. Muir Wood provided several invited lectures about soil modeling at IIS, Japan Geotechnical Society, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Tokyo, etc.

Professor K. Konagai hosted a 3 weeks stay of Prof. Tara Hutchinson (June 16 –July 2, 2003), University of California, Irvine. Prof. Hutchinson provided a lecture at IIS about practical approach for analyzing soil-foundation interaction.

Professor K. Konagai organized a series of Friday evening seminars (May 9 –July 4, 2003) entitled “To be prepared for possible large earthquakes -- Low probability but unavoidable events of extremely high risk ---”. Lectures were provided by Prof. A. Sangawa, Prof. K. Konagai, Prof. J. Koseki, Prof. Y. Nakano, Prof. Y. Muroto, Professor T. Takahashi and Prof. K. Meguro.

Professor K. Konagai, Mr. J. Johansson and members of Konagai laboratory made a survey trip (June 25-June 27, 2003) to areas affected by the June 24, 2003, Off Miyagi earthquake. The survey was made laying stress on a landslide at Tsukidate town where the landslide mass traveled an extremely long distance on a gentle slope of about 7 degrees.

Professor K. Konagai, Mr. J. Johansson and members of Konagai laboratory made survey trips to areas affected by the July 26, 2003 North Miyagi earthquake. It was one of the most remarkable features of this earthquake that three intense shakes of two 6-week and 6-strong on JMA scale took place in a rapid succession within one day.

Professor K. Konagai, Mr. J. Johansson and members of Konagai laboratory made survey trips to areas affected by the Sept. 26, 2003, Off Tokachi earthquake of $M=8.2$. The members measured oval shaped gaps at the base parts of many utility poles to estimate the possible intensity distribution.

Professor K. Konagai was dispatched to Algeria (July 13 - 22) as the vice leader of the JSCE Reconnaissance Team of the May 21, 2003, Boumerdes Earthquake, Algeria, which was responsible for more than 2000 deaths.

Professor K. Konagai was dispatched to Iran as the leader of the JAEE Reconnaissance Team of the Dec. 26, 2003, Bam Earthquake, which killed more than 43,000 people. During his stay in Iran (Feb. 16 – Feb. 25, 2004), he paid a courtesy visit to the International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES), Building and Housing Research Institute (BHRC) and University of Tehran on Feb. 23 and 24, for making brief reports of the survey, and discussed with Dr. M. K. Jafari, leader of Geotechnical Engineering Research Center, IIEES, and Prof. G. Heidarinejad, President of BHRC for future collaboration for possible countermeasures, e.g., reconstruction of damaged structures, retrofitting of existing structures and reducing earthquake hazards in Iran.

Professor K. Konagai attended the 11th International Conference on Soil Dynamics and Earthquake Engineering / 3rd International Conference on Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering, Jan. 7-9, UC, Berkeley, USA, and provided an invited keynote lecture on the “Data archives of seismic fault-induced damage”.

Professor K. Ohi, Mr. T. Ito and Mr. Y. Mori won the 2003 JSSC Best Paper Prize of the Japanese Society of Steel Construction (JSSC).

Professor K. Ohi and Mr. T Ito attended STESSA 2003 held at Naples, Italy, and presented their paper. Professor Ohi also chaired the session of global ductility.

Professor K. Ohi was invited to the Southeast Asia Steel Construction Seminar 2003 held in Kuar Lumpur, Malaysia, and in Jakarta, Indonesia, October 2003. He gave a keynote lecture titled “Present and Future of Steel Buildings in Japan” in each seminar. He also attended CIB/CTBUH conference on tall buildings in Kuar Lumpur.

Professor K. Ohi attended the 3rd Japan-China-Korea Structural Steel Symposium held at Tokyo,

November 2003. He chaired the panel discussion on Structural Design Code.

Professor K. Ohi served as the host professor for Prof Kyun-Jae Shin from Hannam University, Korea, the exchange visitor in Japan-Korea Academic Exchange Program, who stayed at IIS for one month in January and February 2004.

Professor K. Ohi was elected from among applicants for the professor's chair of Earthquake Engineering, Kobe University. He decided to close his laboratory at IIS from April 2004 and restart his academic career at Kobe, commemorating the Great Earthquake that marks the 10th anniversary soon. His new contacting address is: 1-1 Rokkodai, Nada, Kobe, Hyogo 657-8501, JAPAN; Dept. of Architectural & Civil Engineering, Kobe University.

Professor Fumio Yamazaki, Dr. Masayuki Kohiyama, Research Associate, Mr. Yoshihisa Maruyama and Ms. Nanae Muraoka, Graduate Students, visited Miyagi and Iwate Prefectures to conduct the field survey from June 1st to 2nd after the Off-Miyagi Earthquake of May 26, 2003.

Professor F. Yamazaki, Dr. M. Kohiyama and Dr. Masashi Matsuoka, Deputy Team Leader of Earthquake Disaster Mitigation Research Center (EDM), visited the United States from June 15th to 21st, 2003. They first visited ImageCat Inc., Long Beach, California, and they had technical exchange on the use of satellite remote sensing on urban disaster mitigation. After the meeting, they flew to New York, New York and visited Ground Zero and New York State Government office to collect information of September 11, 2001 WTC Terrorist attack.

Professor F. Yamazaki attended the IEEE 2003 International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS) held in Toulouse, France from July 21th to 25th, 2003, and presented a paper: "Wavelet-Based System for Classification of Airborne Laser Scanner Data."

Professor F. Yamazaki attended International Workshop of EqTAP (Development of Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster Mitigation Technologies and its Integration for the Asia-Pacific Region) project held in Kona, Hawaii on July 27th and 28th, 2003. EqTAP is a multi-lateral research project sponsored by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan. The workshop was organized by EDM, Kobe, Japan. The researchers of Section 1 (Development of Vulnerability Assessment Methods Applicable to Asia-Pacific Region) of EqTAP, headed by Prof. F. Yamazaki, attended the workshop.

Dr. M. Kohiyama, Mr. Y. Maruyama, Ms. N. Muraoka, and Mr. Ken'ichi Kouchi, Graduate Student, visited Miyagi Prefecture to conduct the field survey and observe microtremor in the disaster area from July 29th to 30th after the Northern Miyagi Earthquakes of July 26, 2003.

Professor F. Yamazaki attended the APEC seminar on Earthquake Disaster Management of Energy Supply Systems, held in Taipei, Chinese Taipei on September 3rd and 4th, 2003. He delivered an invited presentation on "Remote sensing technology for earthquake damage detection".

Professor F. Yamazaki attended the International Guidance and Oversight Team (IGOT) of EqTAP project held in Waikoloa, Hawaii Island, Hawaii on September 14th and 15th, 2003. In the meeting, international advisory members and section managers of EqTAP discussed on the research progress of the international project.

Professor F. Yamazaki attended two meetings related to Metro Manila Case Study (MMCS) of EqTAP project, held in Metro Manila, the Philippines on September 8th and 9th, 2003. The first workshop "Workshop on the Seismic Capacity of Existing Building Types in Metro Manila" was sponsored by EDM and organized by Vibrametrics, Inc., a member of MMCS. The second workshop was entitled "The Second EdM-EqTAP Stakeholder's Workshop for an Earthquake Safe City of Manila" and local stakeholders from Manila City joined it as well as EqTAP researchers from Section 1.

Professor F. Yamazaki and Dr. M. Kohiyama attended the Workshop on Application of Remote Sensing Technologies for Disaster Response held in Irvine, California, USA on September 12, 2003. In the workshop, they presented papers, "Visual Damage Detection and GIS Mapping of Buildings

with QuickBird Images for the 2003 Boumerdes, Algerian Earthquake” and “Damage Detection Method Using Middle-Resolution Optical Satellite Images Based on Normal Fluctuation of Digital Numbers in Multi-Temporal Images,” respectively.

Professor F. Yamazaki, Dr. M. Kohiyama, Dr. M. Matsuoka, Dr. Tadamichi Yamashita, Researcher of EDM, Mr. Y. Maruyama, Ms. N. Muraoka and Mr. K. Kouchi visited Hokkaido to conduct the field survey and observe microtremor in the disaster area from October 2nd to 4th after the Tokachi-Oki Earthquakes of September 26, 2003.

Professor Fumio Yamazaki moved to Department of Urban Environment Systems, Faculty of Engineering, Chiba University as Professor on December 1st, 2003. His new homepage is found at <http://ares.tu.chiba-u.jp/>.

Mr. Yoshihisa Maruyama, Graduate Student, attended the 9th East Asia-Pacific Conference on Structural Engineering and Construction held in Bali, Indonesia from December 16th to 18th, and presented his paper: “Automobile Drivers’ Responses to Lateral Wind Disturbance based on Driving Simulator Experiments.”

Professor J. Koseki attended 12th Panamerican Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering and First Japan-U.S. Workshop on Testing, Modeling, and Simulation in Geomechanics held in Boston, USA, 22 - 25 and 27 - 29 June 2003.

Professor J. Koseki made a presentation as a general reporter at 12th Asian Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering held in Singapore, 4 - 8 August 2003.

Professor J. Koseki gave a keynote lecture at 3rd International Symposium on Deformation Characteristics of Geomaterials held in Lyon, France, 22 - 24 September 2003.

Dr. Y. Sanada, Research Associate, attended the fib symposium on Concrete Structures in Seismic Regions held in Athens, Greece, during the period of May 6 through 9, 2003, and presented his paper on "Effects of Shear Softening of Reinforced Concrete Shear Wall on Response of Wall-Frame System with Soft First Story".

Professor Y. Nakano and Dr. Y. Sanada, Research Associate, carried out loading tests of block infilled full scale RC frames at the Research Institute of Industrial Science and Technology (RIST), Korea, in September and October, 2003, under the cooperative research program with Professor Waon Ho Yi, Kwangwoon University, Seoul, Korea. During that period, Professor Nakano was invited by two institutions and gave special lectures entitled “Earthquake Preparedness in Japan - Pre-event to Post-event Actions” at Pusan University, and “Seismic Evaluation and Rehabilitation of Existing RC Building” at Korea Institute of Construction Technology (KICT), respectively.

Professor Kawaguchi invited Prof.A.Domingo and C.Lazaro from the University of Valencia from July 19 till 26. They gave lectures on FRC shell structure, which was newly constructed in Valencia by them, during Shape Generation Seminar held at Sanjo Hall in Hongo Campus.

Professor Kawaguchi has visited Taipei from Oct. 19 till 26, for the IASS-APCS symposium held at Grand hotel at Taipei. He was invited as an invited speaker of a session and presented a paper about structural behavior of tension structures.

Mr. Ng Kean Wei from Malaysia, who was guided by prof.Choong in Sains Malaya Univ. in Malaysia, came and is staying at Kawaguchi Lab. as a JSPS research student. He is carrying out a research on shape finding analysis of membrane structures.

Professor K. Meguro visited Noshiro City to participate in the annual general meeting of the Institute of Social Safety Science. Noshiro City was hit by the 1983 Nihon-kai Chubu Earthquake, M7.7, in which about 100 people were killed by a tsunami and surface soil lateral spreading due to liquefaction was observed. Prof. Meguro gave a special lecture to the citizens of Noshiro City to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Nihon-kai Chubu Earthquake.

Professor K. Meguro participated in the Executive Board Members’ meeting of WSSI (World Seismic Safety Initiative) of IAEE (International Association for Earthquake Engineering) which was held in Tokyo on June 21 and 22, 2003. Participants, such as Dr. T. Katayama, Director General of NIED,

Dr. Brian Tucker, GeoHazard International, Prof. H.C. Shah, Stanford University, Prof. Bill Iwan, CALTEC, Prof. T.C. Pan, Nanyan Technological University, Mr. S. Ohya, Chairman of Board of OYO Corporation, and K. Meguro, The University of Tokyo, reviewed the past year WSSI activities and discussed WSSI future directions and new-year activity plan.

Professor K. Meguro visited Algeria from July 13 to 20, 2003 with his Ph.D. candidate, Mr. Said Elkholy, to investigate the damage due to the May 21, 2003 Boumerdes Earthquake. This earthquake, Mw 6.8, hit Boumerdes City located about 50 km east of the capital city of Algeria, caused 2300 death, more than 10,000 injured and approximately 180,000 homeless. He was a member of JSCE Reconnaissance Team.

From August 1st to October 26th, 2003, a special exhibition on earthquake and its induced disaster was held at Ueno National Science Museum in Tokyo by the Seismological Society of Japan and Yomiuri News with the support of Cabinet Office of the Japanese National Government. This event was planned in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923 which was the biggest natural disaster in Japan. Death toll due to the earthquake was over 100,500 and monetary loss was more than 40% of GDP of Japan at that time. Professor K. Meguro was a member of this event and his research group presented some research results showing regional earthquake risks. He also gave special lectures during this exhibition.

Professor K. Meguro visited Ankara, Turkey from October 5 to 10, 2003 to contribute to JICA training course for local government top officials of Turkey. He gave some special lectures on efficient countermeasures for total disaster management including his proposed new Retrofit Promotion System to the Turkish Government.

Professor K. Meguro attended the 2nd AIT-ICUS Joint International Symposium on New Technologies for Urban Safety of Mega Cities in Asia. This workshop was held at Hongo, Main Campus of the University of Tokyo. His research group made 4 presentations.

Professor K. Meguro attended the Board of Director's Meeting of WSSI of IAEE held at Singapore on December 4 and 5, 2003. After the meeting, he visited Bangkok, Thailand, from December 7 to 8 with other WSSI Board Members to organize and attend WSSI Bangkok Workshop.

Professor K. Meguro visited Teheran, Iran from December 20 to 26, 2003 to review the JICA project activities as a chairman of advisory committee of the project. This JICA Project "The Comprehensive Master Plan Study on Urban Seismic Disaster Prevention and Management for Tehran City in the Islamic Republic of Iran" is a succeeding project of "The Study on Seismic Microzonation of Great Tehran, Iran" in which he was also the chairperson of the advisory committee. He visited the counter-part offices and met key persons in order to exchange information and review the activities of both Iran and Japan regarding this project.

Professor K. Meguro attended the Kobe Memorial Conferences held in Kobe on January 29 and 30, 2004 and in Yokohama on February 5 and 6, 2004. During the conference held in Kobe, he organized the 4th Workshop for "Comparative Study on Urban Earthquake Disaster Management". US and Japanese researchers involved in US-Japan cooperative research project on understanding recovery process and disaster response activity by multi-media technology exchanged information and research outcomes. At Yokohama conference, Prof. Meguro gave a lecture on issues for efficient use of real time earthquake information.

Professor K. Meguro visited the damaged site due to the Bam Earthquake, Iran with his colleagues, Drs. M. Takashima and P. Mayorca, Post Doctoral fellows, and Ms. M. Yoshimura, Research Associate. The Bam Earthquake, which occurred on December 26, 2003, caused over 43,000 deaths in a city of 100,000 inhabitants. They performed site investigation together with Iranian counterparts. Prof. Meguro gave special lectures at Tehran University, IIEES (International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology), and Rajee University. He also joined live news TV program with Prof. K. Konagai and gave his comments on collapse mechanism of structures, recovery and reconstruction strategy, and efficient countermeasures for earthquake disaster reduction. He was a member of JSCE reconnaissance Team.

Professor K. Meguro has published 73 technical papers including conference papers in 2003. Among them, 29 papers were written in English and are listed in this volume. Newspapers and TV have introduced and reported his various research topics and outputs 44 times in 2003. He has given special lectures as an invited lecturer 47 times in Japan and 6 times in other countries such as Iran, Turkey, Thailand, etc.

During 2003, Prof. Meguro's research group, including visiting researchers, research associate and students listed below, won several awards. Mr. Y. Uehara won the Best Paper Award for Young Researcher at the JSCE earthquake engineering symposium. Ms. M. Yoshimura, Ms. Y. Kanno, Mr. K. Oda, and Mr. N. Yamaguchi won the prize for best presentation at the JSCE annual conference in 2003. Dr. P. Mayorca won the prize for best presentation at the 5th International Summer Symposium.

Ms. M. YOSHIMURA investigated the current practices for promoting retrofitting in the San Francisco Bay Area from Nov.5 to Dec. 4, 2004. This research was done with the scholarship program for young researchers provided by the US-Japan Cooperative Research Program on Urban Earthquake Disaster Mitigation by the US National Science Foundation and the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technologies.