

News

Professor Kazuo 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". The conference was jointly organized by the International Committee for the 11th International Conference on Soil Dynamics and Earthquake Engineering, and Committee TC-4 (Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering) of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering.

Professor Kazuo Konagai was dispatched to Iran (Feb. 16 - 25) as the leader of the JAEE Reconnaissance Team of the Dec. 26, 2003, Bam Earthquake, Iran, which was responsible for more than 260,000 deaths.

Prof. Kazuo Konagai had a four-months sabbatical stay (March 1 – July 2, 2004) at the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of California, Berkeley, USA. Prof. Jonathan D. Bray hosted his stay. Prof. Konagai provided several invited lectures about Bam earthquake, Seismic Fault Data Archives of JSCE/EqTAP at UC Irvine and University of Washington, Seattle, etc.

Mr. J. Johansson, Mr. T. Katagiri and other members of Konagai Laboratory made a trip to Kakkonda Hydropower station to conduct a geo-resistivity survey at the area where the outlet tunnel of the hydropower station was dislocated in the Mid-Iwate Earthquake of 1998.

Prof. Kazuo Konagai, Mr. J. Johansson and Mr. A. Sadr attended the 13th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering, Vancouver, Canada.

President Cheng gengdong, Vice President Kong xianjing, Prof. Gu yuanxian, Prof. Qu jingping, and Prof. Du fenggang visited IIS, University of Tokyo on Oct. 28, 2004, for strengthening the mutual agreement between the Dalian University of Science and Technology and the Institute of Industrial Science, University of Tokyo

An intense earthquake of magnitude 6.8 jolted Mid Niigata Prefecture, central Japan at 17:56 JST on October 23, 2004 (Chuetsu earthquake). Prof. Kazuo Konagai, Mr. J. Johansson and members of Konagai laboratory made 10 times survey trips to areas affected by the earthquake. The earthquake was followed by a series of strong aftershocks in rapid succession. The area suffered four seismic events of magnitude 6 or greater within 38 minutes after the main shock. They were responsible for more than 1353 landslides, and therefore the damage caused by the earthquake had something distinctive/

Professor Y. Nakano attended the Fifth Seismic Risk Forum held at Bristol University, UK, during the period of July 5 through 7, 2004, and presented his paper on "Seismic Test of Concrete Block Infilled Reinforced Concrete Frames".

Professor Y. Nakano and Ms. N. Tokui, graduate student, attended the 13th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering held in Vancouver, Canada, during the period of August 1 through 6, 2004, and they presented "GUIDELINE FOR POST-EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE EVALUATION AND REHABILITATION OF RC BUILDINGS IN JAPAN" and "SIMPLIFIED SHAKING TABLE TEST METHODOLOGY USING EXTREMELY SMALL SCALED MODELS", respectively.

Professor Y. Nakano, and Ms. N. Tokui and Mr. Y. Ohta, graduate students, surveyed areas affected by the 2004 October 23 Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake. They inspected damaged school buildings under the cooperation with the Ministry of Education and related municipalities, and

recommended necessary actions including repair, rehabilitation, reconstruction etc. to be taken on the buildings.

Professor J. Koseki attended the International Conference on Cyclic Behaviour of Soils and Liquefaction Phenomena held in Bochum, Germany, 31 March - 2 April 2004.

Professor J. Koseki attended 3rd Asian Regional Conference on Geosynthetics held in Seoul, Korea, 21 - 23 June 2004.

Professor J. Koseki attended the 5th Japan-Europe Seismic Risk Forum held in Bristol, UK, 5 - 7 July 2004.

Prof.Kawaguchi was invited to Korea by KASS, Korea Association for Shell and Spatial Structures, for special lecture during its annual symposium, from May 21 till 25. Prof.Kawaguchi delivered the lecture on the structural design of Tensegrity skeletons. Then he visited Semyung university and delivered a lecture on Kinetic Structures. He also visited the construction site of Velodrome Roof, newly designed by CS structural design office, near Seoul.

Prof.Kawaguchi has visited Finland from July 20 till 30 for ECCOMAS Symposium at Jyvaskyla. He presented his paper of the deployable process of foldable tensegrity structure. He also visited several masterpieces desined by Alver Aalto in Jyvaskyla area and in Helsinki.

Prof.Kawaguchi has visited France from Sept. 17 till 25, for the IASS annual symposium held at Column convention center at Montpellier. He presented paper about thermal expansion of tensegrity structures. After the symposium he visited Paris and visited modern architectures guided by Dr.Sassa.

Prof.Kawaguchi, Mr.Y.Suzuki, Mr.Uemura and Mr. S-L, Lee have visited Niigata-Chuetsu region twice, Nov.24-25, and Nov 30 - Dec.1, for the investigation of the damage to the large span spaces from the heavy earthquake hit this region. They mainly visited large span halls in Nagaoka city to find damage to suspended ceilings.

Professor K. Meguro visited Vancouver, Canada from August 1 to 8, 2004 to participate in the World Conference on Earthquake Engineering. From Prof. Meguro research group, seven papers were presented.

Professor K. Meguro attended the 3rd International Symposium on New Technologies for Urban Safety of Mega Cities in Asia which was held in Agra, India on October 18 and 19, 2004. His research group made 3 presentations. After this Symposium, he visited Institute of Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, with Profs. T. Uomoto, Director of International Center for Urban Safety Engineering (ICUS) and R. Amano, Visiting Professor of ICUS and gave a special lecture on Urban Safety Engineering.

Professor K. Meguro visited the Regional Network office for Urban Safety (RNUS) of ICUS of the University of Tokyo located at Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) on October 22 and 23, 2004. Prof. Meguro gave a lecture with the title of 'Integrated System for Total Urban Earthquake Disaster Management'.

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 the Nanyang Technical University, Singapore from December 5 to 8, 2004.

Professor K. Meguro visited Sri Lanka from February 17 to 25, 2005 with Prof. A. S. Herath, United Nations University, Prof. Y. Nakano from IIS, Dr. M. Takashima, JSPS fellow of IIS and his M.E. candidate, S. Navaratnaraj to investigate the damage due to the December 26,

2005 Northern Sumatra Earthquake and propose Tsunami warning system.

Professor K. Meguro visited the damaged sites in Phuket Island Thailand, due to the Northern Sumatra Earthquake with Dr. M. Takashima from March 9 to 13, 2005.

Professor K. Meguro visited the Singapore National University and Nanyang Technical University, Singapore with Prof. T. Uomoto of ICUS from March 27 to 30, 2005. They have exchanged agreements with the two universities.

Professor K. Meguro has published 70 technical papers including conference papers in 2004. 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 41 times in 2004. He has given special lectures as an invited lecturer 43 times in Japan and 2 times in other countries.

During 2004 from Prof. Meguro's research group, Mr. S. Kondo, Ph D candidate, won the prize for best presentation at the JSCE annual conference in 2004.