

News

Professor Kazuo Konagai has started, as the senior researcher at JSCE, a three-year MEX project, “Developing Data Archives of Earthquake-inflicted Damage in Active Folding zones, and its ”, Special Coordination Funds for Promoting Science and Technology. As one of the activities of this project, precise digital ground surface configurations were taken at 4 different times, in 1975-1976 (before the earthquake), on Oct. 24, 2004 (1 day after the earthquake), on Oct. 28, 2004 (5 days after the earthquake and many aftershocks), and in May, 2005 (after snowmelt) to check out how soils are being deformed. He also organized a one-day symposium at Nagaoka, Niigata, on March 5. Mr. Tadayoshi Nagashima, the former mayor of Yamakoshi village, where all inhabitants were forced to evacuate, and Dr. Yoshiyuki Mori, National Institute for Rural Engineering, provided keynote talks in the symposium. Mr. C. W. Nicol has sent his message to the symposium.

Professor Kazuo Konagai attended the 16th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, Sept. 14-16, Osaka, Japan, and provided an invited lecture on the “Strong ground motions and damage to tunnels in the Oct. 23 2004, Chuetsu Earthquake”.

Professor Kazuo Konagai was dispatched to Pakistan (Oct. 24 - 31) as the leader of the Advanced Body of the JSCE Reconnaissance Team of the Oct. 8, 2004, Kashmir Earthquake, Pakistan. As of Nov. 1, 2004, the number of deaths reached 73,246.

Professor Kazuo Konagai and other members of Konagai Laboratory made trips to Baweishan, Taiwan, to conduct a geo-resistivity survey at the area where many piles of the viaduct and ramps of Highway #3 were dislocated in the Chi-Chi Earthquake of 1999.

Professor Kazuo Konagai was appointed to the Director General of a Non-Profit Organization, “Engineers without Border, Japan”.

Professor Kazuo Konagai was dispatched to Pakistan by JICA to attend the International Conference on the Oct. 8, 2005, Kashmir earthquake, Jan. 18-19, Geological Survey of Pakistan, and provided a lecture on some important issues for rehabilitating the affected areas.

Professor J. Koseki attended the International Conference on Deep Mixing held in Stockholm, Sweden, 23 - 25 May 2005.

Professor J. Koseki attended the 2nd US-Japan Workshop on Testing, Modeling and Simulation in Geomechanics held in Kyoto, Japan, 8 - 10 September 2005.

Professor J. Koseki made a presentation as a general reporter at the 16th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering held in Osaka, Japan, 12 - 16 September 2005.

Professor J. Koseki attended the 2nd China-Japan Geotechnical Symposium held in Shanghai, China, 15 - 16 October 2005.

Professor Y. Nakano visited Sri Lanka to survey areas and structures affected by the Tsunami of 2004 December 26 Sumatra Earthquake, during the period of February 19 to 26.

Professor Y. Nakano and Mr. J. Park, graduate student, visited Thailand to survey areas and structures affected by the Tsunami of 2004 December 26 Sumatra Earthquake, during the period of March 9 to 13.

Professor Y. Nakano surveyed areas and building structures affected by the 2005 March 20 Fukuoka-ken Seihou Oki Earthquake, during the period of March 21 to 22.

Professor Y. Nakano surveyed areas and building structures affected by the 2005 August 16 Miyagi-ken Oki Earthquake, during the period of August 16 to 17.

Professor Y. Nakano attended the 4th International Symposium on New Technologies for Urban Safety of Mega Cities in Asia held at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, during the period of October 16 to 20, and he presented "Experimental Study on Seismic Behavior and Crack Pattern of Concrete Block Infilled RC Frames".

Professor Y. Nakano attended the 3rd International Seminar on New Direction for Enhancement of Structural Performance held in Seoul, Korea, during the period of October 25 to 31, and he presented "Seismic Behavior and Crack Pattern of Concrete Block Infilled RC Frames of School Buildings in Korea".

Professor Y. Nakano visited Pakistan and surveyed areas affected by the 2005 October 8 Pakistan Earthquake, during the period of November 18 to 27. He inspected damaged

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

Prof.Kawaguchi, Mr.Ohya and Ms Hattori have visited Fukuoka city and Genkai Island ,from 7th to 9th in April, for damage investigation of large span buildings damaged by Fukuoka Seiho-oki Earthquake that hit the area on 20th March.

Prof.Kawaguchi was invited to Tongji Univ in Shanghai, Zhejiang Univ in Hangzhou and Chang'an Univ at Xi'an in China, from 13th to 22nd in April, to deliver lectures about large span buildings in disaster.

Prof.Kawaguchi has visited to Salzburg Austria to attend at the IASS-IACM Conference and to organize a session about the generalized inverse applied to computational mechanics, from May 31 to June 6th.

Prof.Kawaguchi visited to Romania to attend at IASS annual symposium to deliver an invited lecture and then visited Valencia university in Spain during 3rd to 16th in September.

Prof.Kawaguchi and Mr.Yoshinaka visited Sendai on 18th August in order to investigate the damage to suspended ceilings in a public swimming pool fallen off during the earthquake that had hitted the area on 16th in August.

Mr.Yoshinaka and Ms Hattori visited Sendai in order to investigate the damage to the suspended ceilings again on 8th in September.

Prof.Kawaguchi, Mr.Yoshinaka and Ms Hattori visited Hannou in Saitama on 25th in November in order to investigate the suspended ceilings which had suddenly fallen off in the morning on 24th in November.

Prof.Kawaguchi visited Germany from 1st till 13th in October. He had been invited to Stuttgart for "Structural Membrane 2006" by Conference organizers to deliver a keynote lecture. After the conference prof.Kawaguchi has visited twelve stadia in Germany which was going to be used as the venue of the FIFA World Cup Soccer Games 2006.

Professor K. Meguro participated in the JAEE International Symposium on Earthquake Engineering held in Kobe January as commemoration of the 1995 Kobe earthquake

and he made the presentation entitled 'How to promote retrofitting of low earthquake resistant houses' as a invited key note speaker.

Professor K. Meguro participated in the UNCRD special sessions on January 20th and 21st in the World Disaster Conference held in Kobe and made a shaking table experiment demonstration to show the importance of seismic resistance and/or retrofitting of low earthquake resistant structures. He also participated in the UNU and JICA special sessions both of which were held on January 21st in the same conference and made the presentations entitled 'Human evacuation simulation in disaster situation' at the UNU session and 'Towards good international cooperation and supports for creating disaster resilient nation and people'.

Professor K. Meguro visited Sri Lanka from February 17 to 25, 2005 with Prof. A. S. Herath, United Nations University, Prof. Y. Nakano, 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 a 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 exchanged agreements with the two universities. During the visit, Prof. Meguro gave a special lecture on Urban Safety Technologies for Mega Cities.

Professor K. Meguro visited Lake Tahoe, US, from April 24 to 27 to participate in the Earthquake Summit meeting as a representative from the JAEE and discussed international cooperation and contributions by academic societies on earthquake and earthquake engineering in the world. Prof K. Kudo from the Earthquake Research Institute, The University of Tokyo also attended the meeting as a representative of the Seismological Society of Japan.

Professor K. Meguro attended the International Symposium on Floods in Coastal Cities under Climate Change Conditions held in Bangkok from June 24 to 26 and made a key note speech entitled 'Development of New Tsunami Disaster Mitigation System considering characteristics of Indian Ocean rim regions'.

Professor K. Meguro visited Sri Lanka from September 15 to 19, 2005 with Prof. A. S. Herath, United Nations University and Dr. M. Takashima, Fuji Tokoha University to participate in the Workshop on 2004 Tsunami Impact held at Colombo, Sri Lanka and made an invited lecture entitled 'New Tsunami disaster mitigation system considering characteristics of Indian Ocean rim regions'.

Professor K. Meguro attended the 4th International Symposium on New Technologies for Urban Safety of Mega Cities in Asia which was held in Singapore on October 18 and 19, 2005. He made key note speech entitled 'Development of Simple, Economic and Efficient Retrofit Method Considering Local Availability and Acceptability for Masonry Buildings in Earthquake Prone Regions'. Besides this presentation, his research group made 5 presentations. After this Symposium, he visited the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, during October 20 and 21 with Professors T. Uomoto, Director of International Center for Urban Safety Engineering (ICUS), R. Amano, Visiting Professor of ICUS and Dr. M. Yoshimura to attend the Regional Network Office for Urban Safety (RNUS) Seminar. Prof. Meguro gave a special lecture on Urban Safety Technology for Mega Cities.

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 visited Northern Pakistan region from October 22 to November 1 to investigate earthquake damage due to the 2005 North Pakistan Earthquake and to create international assistant programs for the affected areas. This time he visited the sites as one of the members of the joint survey team from organizations such as the United Nations, World Bank, Asian Development Band, Japan Bank for International Cooperation and Japan International Cooperation Agency among others. Based on the damage survey results, Prof. Meguro proposed his low cost and simple methods for retrofit both new and existing masonry constructions.

Professor K. Meguro participated in the Executive Board Members' meeting of the World Seismic Safety Initiative (WSSI) of the International Association for Earthquake Engineering (IAEE) which was held in the Nanyang Technical University, Singapore from December 4 to 7, 2005.

Professor K. Meguro has published 61 technical papers including conference papers in 2005. Among them, 17 papers were written in English and are listed in this volume. Newspapers and TV have introduced and reported his various research topics and outputs 48 times in 2005. He has given special lectures as an invited lecturer 70 times in Japan and 6 times overseas.

During 2005 Mrs. D. Itoh and T. Nanjo, master students from Prof. Meguro's research group, won the prize for best presentation at the JSCE Annual Conference in 2005 and Dr. Said Elkholy, Post-doctoral fellow from Prof. Meguro's research group, won the award of best paper by young researcher at JSCE Earthquake Engineering Symposium in 2005.