

## OBITUARY

Dr. KEN'ICHI OHI  
1954-2006



Dr. Ken'ichi Ohi, a Professor of Kobe University, an outstanding researcher in the field of steel structures and one of the most active members of ERS, passed away on December 15, 2006. All the members of ERS were deeply shocked at this sad news. He was so young and so active that it is very hard to accept this untimely end.

Ken'ichi Ohi was born in Amagasaki, a city close to Kobe, in Hyogo, Japan in 1954. He has graduated the department of architecture in the university of Tokyo in 1976 and pursued his studies in structural engineering at the same university until 1978 as a graduate student. During his graduate studies, he was affiliated with the laboratory of Dr. Ben Kato. After serving as a structural engineer at Kajima co. he was soon called back to the university and he restarted his academic career as a research associate at the Institute of Industrial Science, the university of Tokyo, in 1979. He subsequently earned his Doctor of Engineering at the same university for his studies on the evaluation of ultimate seismic load effects to steel structures. In 1986 he was promoted as a lecturer in the same university. In 1988 he has visited UC Berkeley for a year as a visiting researcher and when he came back he was promoted as an associate professor. In 2004 he moved the place to the Kobe University and became a professor.

Dr. Ken'ichi Ohi was the world-leading researcher in the field of seismic performance of steel structures. He was the most advanced researcher of the on-line pseudo-dynamic response tests. He has also developed other important and unique experimental schemes, such as high-speed-actuator experiment, the bi-axial bending test and the steel swing test. He extended his interest to theoretical researches as well, such as the simplification of non-linear dynamic design procedure of steel moment-resisting frames to seismic actions, the reduced inelastic response analysis based on simplified global yield surface model and the study on the redundancy of high-rise steel buildings. His activities and academic accomplishments were highly regarded in the academic and engineering societies. He was awarded the encouragement prize of AIJ 1991, the prize of AIJ 2002, JSSC award twice, in 2003 and 2004, and the JSSC special award in 2006.

He was also a man who loved hobbies. He was very good at Japanese chess, Shogi. His skill was proved when he survived the semi-final of the University Tokyo Shogi Tournament.

His friends, colleagues and students will miss a distinguished researcher and a truly likable person. He will be long remembered for his contributions to the field of steel structures and earthquake resistant engineering, and for his wide activities as a young outstanding representative of the Japanese steel structure engineering community.

K. Kawaguchi