

## News

Dr. N. Takahashi attended the 8th National Conference on Earthquake Engineering held in San Francisco, USA, during the period of April 17 to 21 and he presented "Equivalent Seismic Loss Spectrum for a Performance Based Design of Sustainable R/C Buildings." Then he visited Stanford University to investigate the new-generation technology of performance based seismic design, during the period of April 24 to May 4.

Professor Y. Nakano was invited to the Seminar on Restoration and Reconstruction of Earthquake Affected Areas held at Karachi NED University, Pakistan, on May 8.

Professor Y. Nakano and Dr. H. Choi, JSPS Postdoctoral fellow, attended the Korea-Japan Seminar on Upgrading Seismic Performance of Masonry Buildings held in Seoul, Korea and they presented "Damage to Building Structures due to 2005 October 8 Pakistan Earthquake" and "Residual Seismic Capacity of RC Frames with Concrete Block Infills" on May 15.

Professor Y. Nakano was invited to the Seminar on Performance and Future Direction of Light-weight Wall System held in Seoul, Korea on May 16 and presented a special lecture on "Residual Seismic Performance of RC Frames with Unreinforced Block Wall Based on Crack Widths".

Professor Y. Nakano visited Indonesia and surveyed areas affected by the 2006 May 27 Central Java Earthquake, during the period of June 10 to 17. He inspected damaged buildings suffered by the earthquake, and recommended necessary actions including repair, rehabilitation, reconstruction etc. to be taken on the buildings.

Dr. N. Takahashi visited Indonesia and surveyed areas affected by the 2006 May 27 Central Java Earthquake, during the period of July 1 to 8. He inspected damaged residential buildings suffered by the earthquake.

Professor Y. Nakano, Dr. N. Takahashi, Dr. H. Choi and Mr. N. Yamauchi visited Korea and investigated manufacturing practices of concrete block units infilled in RC buildings in Korea, during the period of August 5 to 9.

Professor Y. Nakano, Dr. N. Takahashi and Dr. H. Choi attended the 1st European Conference on Earthquake Engineering and Seismology held in Geneva, Switzerland, during the period

of September 3 to 8 and they presented "Residual Seismic Performance of RC Frames with Unreinforced Block Wall Based on Crack Widths" and "Reparability Demand Spectrum of R/C Buildings due to the Lifecycle Seismic Loss Estimation".

Professor Y. Nakano and Dr. N. Takahashi visited Italy and investigated damage and structural characteristics of the Vicoforte Sanctuary and the Augusta Airship Hangar using micro-tremor measurement, during the period of September 21 to October 1.

Professor Y. Nakano attended the 5th International Symposium on New Technologies for Urban Safety of Mega Cities in Asia held in Phuket, Thailand, during the period of November 16 to 17 and he presented "Residual Seismic Capacity Estimation of RC Frames with Concrete Block Infill Based on their Crack Widths".

Professor K. Meguro visited Beijing, China, from February 19 to 24 to participate in the Earthquake Summit meeting as a representative of the Japan Society of Earthquake Engineering (JAEE) and discussed international cooperation and contributions by academic societies on earthquake and earthquake engineering in the world.

Professor K. Meguro visited Algeria from March 17 to 21, 2006 to introduce the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) project results and exchange information with counter part research members in Algeria. The title of the project is Seismic microzonation in Greater Alger. Prof. Meguro is a chairperson of the project advisory committee.

Professor K. Meguro visited Muzafarabad, one of the most damaged areas due to the 2005 Kashmir Earthquake, from March 22 to 26 to carry out a demonstration of retrofitting local popular masonry houses by his proposed simple and low cost method using PP-band mesh. He also demonstrated shaking table test using scaled masonry houses with and without retrofitting to show the efficiency of the method. Local authorities, mass media persons, NPO and NGO leaders, local engineers, and the general public joined the experiment and they were very impressed by the proposed technology. Material cost for one local popular masonry house was US\$30. The additional cost for retrofit was less than 5% of the total cost of new construction this case, in which it was the first time for local masons to retrofit the house using this method under the supervision of Japanese experts. This project was financially supported by JICA. The National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) greatly contributed to carry out shaking table demonstration test.

Professor K. Meguro visited San Francisco, US to participate in the 8th US National Conference on Earthquake Engineering, 100th Anniversary of Earthquake Conference and to hold a US-Japan Special Session co-organized by the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI), US and the JAEE, Japan on International Cooperation on Implementation of Safer Housing in Earthquake Prone Regions in the World. As the representative of JAEE international committee, Prof. Meguro made an opening address and also made a presentation entitled "Issues for implementation of safer houses in developing countries - an overview". From Prof. Meguro's group, Drs. Paola Mayorca, Miho Yoshimura and Kourosh Nasrollahzadeh Nesheli also participated in the conference.

Professor K. Meguro visited Dhaka, Bangladesh from June 13 to 16 with Drs. M. Yoshimura and H. Kanada, and Mr. K. Tsukimoto, graduate student from Prof. Meguro's lab. to see the space for ICUS branch office in Bangladesh, Bangladesh Network Office for Urban Safety (BNUS). BNUS is located at the Department of Civil Engineering, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). They also joined a seminar on non-destructive testing and gave lectures at BUET. Drs. Yoshimura and Kanada instructed seminar participants on the use of equipments such as, microtremor measuring instruments and Ferrosan to evaluate dynamic properties of structures. After Prof. Meguro left from Bangladesh, Drs. Yoshimura and Kanada, and Mr. Tsukimoto stayed another one week and investigated many buildings, most of them are in BUET campus, with BUET researchers. Survey results will be reported by ICUS report soon.

Professor K. Meguro and Dr. Paola Mayorca visited Geneva, Switzerland, from 3 to 6 September to participate in the First European Conference on Earthquake Engineering and Seismology. Besides research presentations, Prof. Meguro assisted in the management of the International Association of Earthquake Engineering (IAEE) general assembly meeting.

Professor K. Meguro and Dr. M. Yoshimura visited Istanbul to assist the joint workshop by Istanbul Institute of Technology and The University of Tokyo as one of the activities of the Center of Excellence (COE) program. This workshop was very unique because graduate students from both universities attended and work together to propose a new city plan of Galata area in Istanbul City. From Prof. Meguro's research group, three graduate students, Ms. M. Abe, and Messrs. Y. Sato and M. Takeuchi joined the workshop.

Professor K. Meguro attended the 5th International Symposium on New Technologies for Urban Safety of Mega Cities in Asia, which was held in Phuket Island, Thailand, on October 15 and

16, 2006. Among 6 presentations by his research group, Dr. Kawin Worakanchana won the best presentation award for young researchers.

As a chair person of the JAEE international committee, Professor K. Meguro organized an International Special Session and Panel Discussion entitled “Lessons Learned from the 2004 Sumatra Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster,” at the Earthquake Engineering Symposium held at Tokyo Institute of Technology. Four invited speakers listed below made presentations and a panel discussion was arranged. Prof. Fumihiko Imamura, Tohoku University: “Characteristics of Tsunami in Indian Ocean and Issues for future Tsunami disaster reduction;” Mr. Teddy Boen, Advisor of Recovery and Reconstruction from the 2004 Tsunami disaster in Indonesia, World Seismic Safety Initiative (WSSI) Board member: “Recovery and Reconstruction Activities in Indonesia and Their Issues;” Mr. Sahabandu K L S, Committee member of Sri Lanka Disaster Management Center, Act. Additional General Manger, Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau (CECB): “Recovery and Reconstruction Activities in Sri Lanka and Their Issues;” and Prof. Kimiro Meguro, ICUS, The University of Tokyo: “Proposal of Comprehensive Tsunami Disaster Reduction System considering Characteristics of Indian Ocean Rim Countries.”

Professor K. Meguro participated in the Executive Board Members’ meeting of the WSSI of the International Association for Earthquake Engineering (IAEE) which was held in the Nanyang Technical University, Singapore from December 3 to 4, 2006. After this meeting, he moved to Bangladesh to attend the opening ceremony of BNUS at BUET on December 8, 2006 with Professor Taketo Uomoto, director of ICUS. After the ceremony, they attended seminar held at BUET and gave lectures.

Professor K. Meguro has published 63 technical papers including conference papers in 2006. Among them, 19 papers were written in English and are listed in this volume. Newspapers and TV programs have introduced and reported his various research topics and outputs 24 times in 2006. He has given special lectures as an invited lecturer 44 times in Japan and 5 times overseas.

Professor K. Konagai is running, as the senior researcher at JSCE, a three-year MEX project, “Earthquake damage in active-folding areas: creation of a comprehensive data archive and suggestions for its application to remedial measures for civil-infrastructure systems,” Special Coordination Funds for Promoting Science and Technology. As one of the activities of this project, precise digital ground surface configurations were taken at 5 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), in May, 2005 (after snowmelt) and in Aug., 2006, to check out how soils are being deformed. He also organized a one-day symposium at JSCE, on March 13, 2007.

Professor K. Konagai attended the International Conference on Earthquake in Pakistan, Its Implications & Hazard Mitigation, jointly organized by The Pakistan academy of Geological Science (PAGS) and the Geological Survey of Pakistan (GSP) on Jan. 18, 2006, and provided an invited lecture on “Similarities between the Pakistan Earthquake and other earthquakes”.

Professor K. Konagai attended the Seminar on Restoration and Reconstruction of the Areas affected by Earthquake on October 8, organised by the Cowasjee Earthquake Study Centre, Department of Civil Engineering, NED University of Engineering and Technology on May 8, 2006, and provided an invited lecture on the “Damage to civil-infra structures and geotechnical Hazards in the 2005 October 8, Pakistan Earthquake and Rehabilitation strategies”.

Professor K. Konagai attended the Seminar on Slope Disaster Management, Envisioning Safer Pakistan, -- Disaster Risk Reduction for Steady Recovery from the 8th October 2005 Earthquake Damage, on Dec. 27, 2006, and provided an invited lecture on the “Engineering-geological condition of Hatian Landslide mass and MZD-BKT”.

Professor K. Konagai was dispatched to Indonesia (June 10 - 17) as the leader of the Advanced Body of the JSCE Reconnaissance Team of the May 27, 2006, Mid-Java Earthquake, Indonesia.

Professor K. Konagai was dispatched to Indonesia (Sept 19 - 21) as the leader of the Advanced Body of the JSCE/EWBJ Reconnaissance Team of the July 17, 2006, South Java Earthquake, Indonesia.

Professor K. 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 K. Konagai was appointed to a Joint-Science Academies member of Science Council of Japan.

Professor J. Koseki attended the Geotechnical Symposium in Roma held in Roma, Italy, 16 - 17 March 2006.

Professor J. Koseki visited Indonesia from 24 June to 1 July 2006 to survey damage to earth structures by the Mid Java earthquake..

Professor J. Koseki attended the International Conference on Geomechanics and Geotechnics of Particulate Media held in Yamaguchi, Japan, 12 - 14 September 2006.

Professor J. Koseki made a keynote lecture at the 8th International Conference on Geosynthetics held in Yokohama, Japan, 18 - 22 September 2006.

Professor J. Koseki made a presentation as a panelist at KGS-AGS Joint Workshop, 2006 Fall Geotechnical Engineering Conference held in Daegue, Korea, 27 October 2006.