

## News

Professor Kazuo Konagai has been 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 6 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) Aug., 2006, and May 2007 to check out how soils are being deformed. He also organized symposia at Nagaoka and JSCE, on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

Professor Kazuo Konagai, on behalf of the delegation from the Japan Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE), signed a memorandum among three organizations, JSCE, Indonesian Engineering Society and the Ministry of Construction, Indonesia, for Indonesian disaster mitigation. These three organizations together with the Engineers without Borders, Japan, organized a “one-day workshop” and the “Indonesia-Japan joint seminar on Mapping out Strategies for Better Seismic Disaster Mitigation” on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007, respectively.

Professor Kazuo Konagai was dispatched to Noto peninsular (March 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>) as a member of the Advanced Body of the JSCE Reconnaissance Team of the March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Noto Earthquake, Japan.

Professor Kazuo Konagai was dispatched to Kashiwazaki and its vicinity (July 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>) as the leader of the Advanced Body of the JSCE Reconnaissance Team of the July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Chuetsu offshore Earthquake, Japan.

Professor Kazuo Konagai attended the signing ceremony for extending the agreement between Dailan University of Science and Technology and the Institute of Industrial Science, University of Tokyo on October 11<sup>th</sup>, and provided a keynote lecture on “Data archives of recent massive earthquakes in Asia and long lasting issues for rehabilitations”.

Professor Kazuo Konagai attended a two-days Seminar on Earthquake Natural Disaster Mitigation – Mission for the spread of disaster mitigation knowledge --, on October 23 in Islamabad and on October 24 at Muzaffarabad, organized by the Engineers without Borders, Japan (EWBJ), in cooperation with Warthquake Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Authority, Pakistan, Architectural Institute of Japan (AIJ), and Japan Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE).

Professor Kazuo Konagai and other members of Konagai Laboratory made a survey trip on December 2<sup>nd</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> to Alpine fault, New Zealand.

Professor Kazuo Konagai attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Earthquake Symposium on December, 11, 2007, at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka, Bangladesh, and provided a keynote lecture on “Long-lasting landform changes caused by massive earthquakes”.

Lecturer Jorgen Johansson took part in several surveys for damage due to the Niigata Oki earthquake. Important contributions were the infrared imaging of a failed slope at the Oumigawa station, allowing for evaluation of ground water distribution. Damage to 3 different tunnels were also surveyed.

Lecturer Jorgen Johansson guided a earthquake reconnaissance team dispatched by the

American Society of Civil Engineering to survey the damages due to the Niigata Oki earthquake

Lecturer Jorgen Johansson was dispatched in September during a 3 week period as a team lead for the Joint JSCE/JAEE team for investigating the August 2007 Pisco, Peru Earthquake

Lecturer Jorgen Johansson visited different institutes in Sweden and Norway in March 2007, for exchanging information on landslide research.

Lecturer Jorgen Johansson took part in a survey for evaluating the dynamic behavior of the Yanagizawa shinkansen viaduct near Shizuoka. A cooperative research project with JR Tokai, (Project leader Prof. Kazuo Kongai.)

Professor Y. Nakano was invited to Indonesia-Japan Joint Seminar on Mapping-out Strategies for Better Seismic Preparedness, held at Jakarta, Indonesia, during the period of February 12 to 13. And he made a presentation of "Seismic Evaluation and Rehabilitation of Vulnerable RC Buildings -Experiences and Lessons in Japan-".

Professor Y. Nakano was invited to the Seminar on Seismic Disaster Mitigation in Mongolia, held at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, during the period of March 6 to 8. And he made a presentation of "Seismic Design Code Development -Ductility and Integrity of Buildings-".

Professor Y. Nakano attended the International Symposium on Seismic Risk Reduction, held at Bucharest, Romania, during the period of April 26 to 27. And he made a presentation of "Residual Seismic Capacity Estimation of RC Frames with Concrete Block Infill Based on Their Crack Widths".

Professor Y. Nakano, Dr. N. Takahashi, Dr. H. Choi and Ms. R. Kuwahara visited Italy and investigated damage and structural characteristics of the Augusta Airship Hangar and Vicoforte Sanctuary the using micro-tremor measurement, during the period of September 3 to September 20.

Professor Y. Nakano was invited to the Technical Seminar on Earthquake Natural Disaster Mitigation, held in Islamabad and Muzaffarabad, Pakistan, during the period of October 23 to 24. And he made a presentation of "Seismic Evaluation and Rehabilitation of Vulnerable RC Buildings -Experiences and Lessons in JAPAN-".

Professor Y. Nakano attended the International Workshop on Measures for the Prevention of Total Collapse of Existing Low-Rise Structures, held at Istanbul, Turkey, during the period of November 19 to 20.

Dr. N. Takahashi and Dr. H. Choi attended the 8th Pacific Conference on Earthquake Engineering held in Singapore, during the period of December 5 to 7 and they presented "Mutual Relation of Safety and Reparability for R/C Structures in Seismic Design" and "Residual Seismic Capacity Estimation of RC Frame with Block Infill Based on Crack Width".

Dr. H. Choi attended the 6th International Symposium on New Technologies for Urban Safety of Mega Cities in Asia held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, during the period of December 9 to 10 and he made a presentation of "Residual Seismic Capacity Estimation of RC Frames with Unreinforced Concrete Block Infill".

Professor J. Koseki visited Kazakfstan from 5 April to 13 April 2007 to conduct geotechnical survey around Aral Sea areas.

Professor J. Koseki made a keynote lecture at the 3rd Sino-Japan Geotechnical Symposium held in Chóngqing, China, 4 - 7 November 2007.

Professor J. Koseki made a presentation as a panelist at 5th Int. Sym. on Earth Reinforcement held in Fukuoka, Japan, 16 November 2007.

Professor J. Koseki attended the International Workshop on Earthquake Hazards and Mitigations held in Guwahati, India, 7 - 8 December 2007.

Professor J. Koseki made a keynote lecture at the 13th Asian Regional Conference of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering held in Kolkata, India, 10 - 14 December 2007.

Associate professor R. Kuwano attended the 3rd Sino-Japan Geotechnical Symposium held in Chóngqing, China, 4 - 7 November 2007.

Associate professor R. Kuwano attended the 6th International Symposium on New Technologies for Urban Safety of Mega Cities in Asia held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, 9 - 10 December 2007.

Prof. K. Meguro traveled to Bangkok, Thailand from May 9 to 11 to visit RNUS offices at AIT.

Prof. K. Meguro visited Jakarta, Indonesia from June 20 to 23 to attend the 3rd Association of Pacific Rim Universities / Association of East Asian Research Universities Research Symposium "Earthquake Hazards around the Pacific Rim". He made the presentation entitled 'Implementation of safer housing against earthquakes by both technological and social approaches' as one of the invited key note speakers.

Prof. K. Meguro received the "Continuing International Contribution Award" from the Japan Society of Civil Engineering on May 25, 2007 for his continuous efforts towards disaster mitigation worldwide.

Prof. K. Meguro traveled to Bangkok, Thailand from Aug. 8 to 11 to attend the Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Center which was held from Aug. 8 to 19.

Prof. K. Meguro visited Taipei, Taiwan from Sept. 1 to 3 to join the Taiwan-Japan Workshop on the Earthquake Early Warning System. He made the presentation entitled 'Taking Full Advantage of Real-Time earthquake information to Reduce Damage' as one of the invited key note speakers.

Dr. P. Mayorca traveled to Peru from Sept. 4 to 28 to survey damages due to the 2007 Pisco Earthquake as a member of the team sent by the Japan Society of Civil Engineers and the Japan Association of Earthquake Engineering.

Dr. M. Y. Ohara , who is research associate of Meguro laboratory received the "Best Research Award" for the paper "A Consideration on Land-Use Control Plan along Active Faults in a Depopulating Society" at the 26th meeting of the Japan Society of Natural Disaster Science held at Hokkaido University on September 25-26.

Mr. Sathiparan, who is a Meguro laboratory PhD candidate, received the "Best Research Award" for the paper "Parametric Study on Diagonal Shear Behavior of Masonry Wall Retrofitted by PP-band Mesh" at the 26th meeting of the Japan Society of Natural Disaster Science held at Hokkaido University on September 25-26.

Prof. K. Meguro attended the 6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on New Technologies for Urban Safety of Mega Cities in Asia from Dec. 7 to 12.

Prof. Meguro visited Stockholm, Sweden from Oct. 21 to 23 to attend the meeting of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)

Prof. K. Meguro and Dr. M. Y. Ohara attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Urban Disaster Reduction which was held in Taipei, Taiwan from Nov. 26 to 30. Prof. K. Meguro gave a lecture entitled 'International Cooperation for Earthquake Disaster Mitigation, -Implementation of safer housing against earthquakes by both technological and social approaches' as one of keynote speakers.

Prof. K. Meguro attended the meeting of the board of directors of the World Seismic Safety Initiative held in Singapore from Dec. 1 to 6.

Dr. K. Meguro and Dr. M. Y. Ohara received the University of Tokyo President's Award for the "Development of Portable Disaster Manuals and E-learning System on Emergency Responses in the University of Tokyo Hospital" on Dec.21.

Mr. N. Sathiparan, Meguro Laboratory graduate student, received the Mondialogo Engineering Award as a member of the team which submitted the proposal "Improving the structural strength under seismic loading of non-engineered buildings in the Himalayan region."

Professor K. Meguro has published 72 technical papers including conference papers in 2007. Among them, 15 papers were written in English and are listed in this volume. Newspapers and TV have introduced and reported his various research topics and outputs 30 times in 2007. He has given special lectures as an invited lecturer 33 times in Japan and 10 times overseas.

The construction of the first house equipped with the new base-isolation system developed by prof.Kawaguchi and Okabe co. had been starting at Yachiyo in Chiba prefecture.

Dr.Shirley Dyke from Washington University St.Louis has visited prof.Kawaguchi for the promotion of a scholarship in WU on 7th March.

Dr.K.J.Linkwitz, em.prof. of Stuttgart University has visited prof.Kawaguchi and delivered a lecture on spatial structures on 10th April.

Mr.Chuck Hoberman has visited prof.Kawaguchi and delivered a lecture on kinetic structures on 25th April.

Mr.John Allen, the organizer of Bio Sphere II, has visited the university of Tokyo and prof.Kawaguchi met him, on 27th May, since they knew each other from the Infra-free symposium in Dec. in 2006.

Prof.Kawaguchi, Dr.Yoshinaka, Mr.Ohya and Ms Ohtsuka have visited Yamanaka area in Ishikawa prefecture on 30th March, for damage investigation of large span buildings damaged by Notohanto-Oki Earthquake.

Dr.Yoshinaka, Ms Ohtsuka and Mr.Katayama have visited Noto Peninsula area in Ishikawa prefecture, for damage investigation of large span buildings damaged by Notohanto-Oki Earthquake.

Prof.Kawaguchi visited Seoul to have a meeting with Korean researchers on the design code of membrane structures from 20th to 22nd in April.

Prof.Kawaguchi, Dr.Yoshinaka, Mr.Ohya, Ms Ohtsuka and Mr.Katayama have visited Nagaoka and Kashiwazaki region during 24th to 26th in July, for damage investigation of large span buildings

damaged by Niigata-Chuetsu-oki Earthquake.

Prof.Kawaguchi was invited to "International Symposium on Studies on Historical Heritage 2007", from 16th to 22nd in September, to deliver lectures about a new base-isolation system for timber structures.

Prof.Kawaguchi delivered a lecture on "Force and Shapes in Architectures" in the open lecture of the University of Tokyo at the Yasuda Hall on 6th October.

Prof.Kawaguchi visited Kochi, on 13th and 14th on October, to meet prof.K.Oda and Korea researchers to discuss on the design code of membrane structures in Japan.

Prof.Kawaguchi visited Beijing and Shanghai, from 4th to 6th November, for the technical visit of Beijing Olympic complexes and other large membrane structures.

Prof.Kawaguchi has participated the executive council meeting of International Association for Shell and Spatial Structures held at Venice, Italy, on 2nd Dec.

Dr.Shirley Dyke and Mr.Chiaki Sato from Washington University St.Louis has visited prof.Kawaguchi for the promotion of a scholarship in WU on 18th December.

Prof.Kawaguchi and Dr.Yoshinaka have visited a swimming pool at Toyota city for the investigation of the sudden fall of huge ceiling panels onto the pool on 7th January, 2008.

Prof.Kawaguchi organized a meeting at Hongo campus of the university of Tokyo with Korean researchers, and prof.Ohsaki(Kyoto Univ.) and Mr.Sasaki(Taiyo Kogyo) on the design code of membrane structures in Japan, on 25th January.

