

News

After the 2008 devastating Wenchuan Earthquake in Sichuan Province, international academic societies expressed great deal of condolences and showed great concerns to the related scientific issues. With the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan (MEXT hereafter) and the network of Japanese experts in the field of seismology, geology and earthquake engineering organized a team (Leader: K. Konagai, the first author) asking collaboration from Chinese organizations and experts with the China Earthquake Administration (CEA) as its core, with the support from Ministry of Science and Technology of China. Professor Konagai visited Beijing three times to have kick-off meetings with experts from CEA and Dalian University of Technology and Sichuan Province two times to survey mountainous regions affected by the earthquake. He also attended the China-Japan Symposium on Seismic disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Oct. 8-12, 2008, Chendu organized by the Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS), National Institute of Earth Science and Disaster Prevention, Japan (NIED) and Chinese Academy of Science (CAS), and 2nd China-Japan Science Forum, “The 2008 Wenchuan Earthquake and Natural Disaster Mitigation,” March 9-10, 2009, Beijing, organized by JSPS, CEA and National Natural Science Foundation, China (NSFC).

Professor Kazuo Konagai attended the 1st World Landslide Forum (Nov. 18-21, 2008), United Nations University, with the International Consortium on Landslides (ICL) as the key organizer. He provided an invited lecture on the “Huge landslides caused by massive earthquakes and long-lasting geotechnical risks”.

Professor Kazuo Konagai attended a technical seminar at Padang, Indonesia (Aug 25 - 28) as the President of the Engineers without Borders, Japan (EWBJ). The opening of the seminar was a kick-off ceremony of the earthquake observation system project for the West-Sumatra Province with four seismometers provided by EWBJ. Prof. Dr. Ismail Febrin, Dean of Engineering Faculty, Andalas University, will lead the project.

Prof. Kazuo Konagai and his laboratory members made survey trips twice to both Muzaffarabad and Hattian Ballah landslide area, the first and second trips for June 23 to July 1, and Nov. 24 to Dec. 2, respectively. They have measured landforms at these different times to check if the landforms would change. Their papers with some new findings are available in this volume of the ERS Bulletin.

Prof. Kazuo Konagai attended the 14th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering, Oct. 13 – 17, Beijing.

Prof. Kazuo Konagai and his laboratory members made reconnaissance trips, the first one from June 15 to 17, the second from July 12 to 14, and then Sept. 8 to 9, to the areas affected by the Mid Iwate/Miyagi Prefectures Earthquake of June 14th, 2008.

Prof. Jorgen Johansson moved to the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI) on Dec. 1, 2008.

Professor Y. Nakano was invited to Indonesia-Japan Joint Seminar –Technical Seminar for Earthquake Disaster Mitigation–, held at Andalas University, Padang, Indonesia, on January 28. He made a presentation on "Seismic Evaluation and Rehabilitation of Vulnerable RC Buildings -Experiences and Lessons in Japan-".

Professor Y. Nakano visited Sichuan Province, China and surveyed areas affected by the 2008 May 12 Wenchuan, China Earthquake, during the period of May 28 to June 1. He inspected damaged buildings suffered by the earthquake, and recommended necessary actions including repair, rehabilitation, reconstruction etc. to be taken on the buildings.

Professor Y. Nakano attended the China-Japan Workshop on Rehabilitation Techniques of Damaged Buildings suffered by the 2008 May 12 Wenchuan, China Earthquake, held at Southwest Jiaotong University, Chengdu city, Sichuan Province, China, during the period of June 20 to 25. He made a presentation on "Seismic Rehabilitation of Existing buildings in Japan".

Professor Y. Nakano was invited to the guest lectures held at Southwest Jiaotong University, Chengdu city, Sichuan Province, China, during the period of September 13 to 16. He made presentations on "Seismic Evaluation of Existing buildings in Japan" and "Seismic Rehabilitation of Existing buildings in Japan".

Professor Y. Nakano and Dr. N. Takahashi attended the 14th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering held in Beijing, China, during the period of October 12 to 17. Professor Y. Nakano presented "Design Load Evaluation for Tsunami Shelters Based on Damage Observations after Indian Ocean Tsunami Disaster Due to the 2004 Sumatra Earthquake" and "Substructure Online Test Using Parallel Hysteresis Modeling by Neural Network". Dr. N. Takahashi presented "Impact of R/C Building Components on Its Seismic Reparability Due to the Life Cycle Economic Loss".

Professor Y. Nakano attended the 7th International Symposium on New Technologies for Urban Safety of Mega Cities in Asia held in Beijing, China, during the period of October 21 to 22 and he made a presentation on "Damage to Buildings due to 2008 May 12 Wenchuan Earthquake and Cooperative Activities for Damage Restoration by Japanese Experts".

Dr. H. Choi attended the 28th Annual Conference in Architectural Institute of Korea held in Kwangju city, Korea, during the period of October 24 to 25 and he made a presentation on "The Relationship between Residual Crack Width and Residual Deformation of Reinforced Concrete Column".

Professor Y. Nakano was invited to the 34th National Convention of Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers, held in Cagayan de Oro city, Philippines, on November 29. He made a presentation on "Building Damage Due to 2008 Sichuan (Wenchuan) Earthquake and Cooperative Activities on Damage Restoration by Japanese Experts". He was also invited to the guest lectures held at University of The Philippines, Manila, Philippines, on December 2. He made a presentation on "Recovery and Reconstruction after the Wenchuan, China Earthquake of 2008".

Professor J. Koseki made a keynote lecture at the conference on Geosynthetics for Soil Reinforcement held in Perugia, Italy, 12 February 2008.

Professor J. Koseki attended the US-Japan Workshop on Ground Improvement II held in Sacramento, USA, 16 - 17 May 2008.

Professor J. Koseki made a keynote lecture at the 4th International Symposium on Deformation Characteristics of Geomaterials, held in Atlanta, USA, 22 - 24 September 2008.

Professor J. Koseki visited China from 16 to 25 October 2008 to conduct geotechnical survey in Sichuan areas.

Professor J. Koseki attended the Second Japan-Korea Geotechnical Engineering Workshop held in Tokyo, Japan, 10 - 11 November 2008.

Professor J. Koseki made a keynote lecture at the International Workshop on Contributions of Geotechnical Engineering to Sustainable Civil Constructions, held in Bandung, Indonesia, 18 - 19 November 2008.

Associate professor R. Kuwano visited Akita and Iwate prefecture for surveying roads damaged by Iwate-Miyagi Nairiku earthquake, on 17 - 18 June and 1 July 2008.

Associate professor R. Kuwano and Mr. R.I. Wicaksono, graduate student, attended the 4th international symposium on deformational characteristics of geomaterials held in Atlanta, USA, 22 - 24 September 2008.

Associate professor R. Kuwano, together with two students of Kuwano laboratory, attended the 7th International Symposium on New Technologies for Urban Safety of Mega Cities in Asia held in Beijing, China, 21 - 22 October 2008.

Associate professor R. Kuwano attended the 2nd Japan-Korea geotechnical engineering workshop held in Tokyo, 10 - 11 November 2008.

Associate professor R. Kuwano, together with two students of Kuwano laboratory visited Aratosawa dam site for the investigation on landslide caused by Iwate-Miyagi Nairiku earthquake, on 29 August and 10 December 2008.

Prof. K. Meguro visited Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, BUET, Dhaka, Bangladesh to discuss BNUS (Bangladesh Network Office for Urban Safety) management and research project on earthquake disaster mitigation for major cities in Bangladesh with Prof. Mehedi Ahmed Ansary. This project regarding seismic hazard and vulnerability mapping of Dhaka, Chittagong & Sylhet city corporation area is sponsored by Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) using EC-fund. Dr. Kawin Warakanchana from RNUS, ICUS and Dr. Pennung Warnitchai from AIT are involved in this project.

Prof. K. Meguro visited Beijing, China to attend the 14th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering, and to hold the 7th International Symposium on New Technologies for Urban Safety of Mega Cities in Asia, USMCA2008 from October 12 to 23. At the 14 WCEE, Prof. Meguro gave two invited speeches at two special sessions. From his research group, totally 13 research papers were presented. About the USMCA2008, Prof. Meguro gave one keynote speech and 7 research papers were presented.

Prof. K. Meguro traveled to Bangkok, Thailand from Nov. 18 to 22 to attend the Expert Group Meeting (EGM), and Committee on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). Prof

Meguro gave two lectures at the EMG and the opening ceremony of the Committee on ICT. Titles of his lectures were “The most important issue for disaster mitigation and integrated information system for total disaster management” and “Development of a new generation disaster manual -efficient use of information for integrated urban disaster management”. At the opening ceremony of the Committee on ICT, there were many important persons, such as Ms. Noeleen Heyzer, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the ESCAP, Thai ICT Minister, Secretary to the Sri Lankan President equivalent to a Cabinet minister in Sri Lanka, and so on. Prof. Meguro introduced them his research outcomes and activities and exchanged the opinions with them.

Prof. K. Meguro attended the meeting of the board of directors of the World Seismic Safety Initiative (WSSI) held in Singapore from Dec. 7 to 9.

Prof. K. Meguro visited 2008 Sichuan earthquake affected areas and Beijing with Dr. N. Sathiparan, post doctoral fellow at Meguro Laboratory. China Development Research Foundation invited them to introduce their newly developed efficient retrofit method to the people in affected areas and local government officials in the other parts of the country. At the affected areas, Prof. Meguro explained local masons and people about PP-band retrofit method and people showed strong interests. In Beijing, Prof. Meguro gave special lecture on how to apply PP-band technique to strengthen constructions to over 400 Chinese local governmental officials from the Sichuan earthquake affected areas and other earthquake prone areas in China.

Dr. P. Mayorca project researcher of Meguro research group, won the best paper award by an young researcher at the 14WCEE for her research paper titled “A Step Towards the Formulation of a Simple Method to Design PP-Band Mesh Retrofitting for Adobe/Masonry Houses”. Prof. Meguro was the co-author of the paper. She received certificate at the closing ceremony of 14 WCEE on October 16.

Dr. N. Sathiparan and Dr. A. Kawasaki, both post doctoral fellows of Meguro Laboratory, won the best presentation award at the USMCA2008.

Mrs. Naoki Sorimachi and Mr. Yoshiki Hiruma, both master course students of Meguro Laboratory, won best presentation award at the annual conference of Japan Society of Civil Engineers on Dec.10

Professor K. Meguro has published 65 technical papers including conference papers in 2008. Among them, 27 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 2008. He has given special lectures as an invited lecturer 33 times by Japanese organizations and 7 times by overseas and international organizations.

Dr. M. Ohara visited Beijing, China from October 12 to October 23, 2008 for attending the 14th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering and the Seventh International Symposium on New Technologies for Urban Safety of Mega Cities in Asia.

Dr. Ogi and Mr. Oba visited Kobe on March 16 of 2009, to investigate large roof buildings damaged by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.

Dr. Ogi and Mr. Oba visited Amagasaki, Itami, and Takarazuka on January 29 and 30 of 2009, to investigate large roof buildings damaged by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.

Dr. Ogi and Mr. Oba visited Amagasaki on November 27 and 28 of 2008, to investigate large roof buildings damaged by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.

Prof. Kawaguchi, Dr. Ogi, and Mr. Oba visited Nishinomiya, Kobe, and Ashiya on October 10 and 11 of 2008, to investigate large roof buildings damaged by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.

Dr. Ogi and Mr. Oba visited Kobe and Nishinomiya on September 24 to 26 of 2008, to investigate large roof buildings damaged by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.

Dr. Ogi and Mr. Oba visited Kobe on September 11 and 12 of 2008, to investigate large roof buildings damaged by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.

Dr. Ogi and Mr. Oba visited Kobe from August 20 to 22 of 2008, to investigate large roof buildings damaged by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.

Prof. Kawaguchi, Dr. Ogi, Mr. Katayama, and Mr. Kumagai visited Hachinohe on July 26 of 2008, to investigate large roof buildings damaged by the Iwateken Engan- Hokubu Earthquake.

Dr. Ogi, Mr. Katayama, and Mr. Kumagai visited Akita prefecture on June 21 of 2008, to investigate large roof buildings damaged by the Iwate-Miyagi Nairiku Earthquake.

Prof. Kawaguchi, Mr. Oya, and Mr. Sakurai visited Miyagi prefecture on June 21 of 2008, to investigate large roof buildings damaged by the Iwate-Miyagi Nairiku Earthquake.

Prof. Kawaguchi, Dr. Ogi, Mr. Oya, and Mr. Katayama visited Iwate prefecture on June 19 of 2008, to investigate large roof buildings damaged by the Iwate-Miyagi Nairiku Earthquake.

Prof. Kawaguchi, Mr. Oya, Mr. K. Abe, Mr. J. Abe, and Mr. Taguchi received a Technology Award (Special Award) on May 29 of 2008, from the Japan Society of Seismic Isolation, for development of a new base-isolation system.

