

News

Professor K. Meguro visited Singapore during 23 to 25 April, 2015 to participate in the International Conference on Risk Management (ICRM) at Nanyang Technological University and gave a invited lecture “The 2011 Great East-Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster - Lessons Learned and Countermeasures against Future Catastrophes -.”

Professor K. Meguro and Dr. M. Numada visited Kathmandu, Nepal from 1 to 6 May, 2015 to investigate damage due to the 2015 Gurkha Earthquake with magnitude 7.8, which occurred on 25 April. Dr. Ramesh Guragain, Deputy Executive Director of National Seismology and Earthquake Engineering Technology (NSET) and Dr. M. Fujiu, Research Associate of Kanazawa University joined the investigation. They got Ph.D under supervision of Professor Meguro. Based on the damage survey results, Professor Meguro submitted research proposal and won J-Rapid project supported by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST).

Professor K. Meguro visited Nepal from 24 to 25 May, 2015 to attend the Build Back Better Seminar from the 2015 Gurhka Nepal Earthquake Disaster by Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA) and Nepal Government. He gave a lecture entitled “Lessons learned from past big earthquake disasters and comprehensive disaster management for implementation of disaster resilient society” at the seminar.

Professor K. Meguro and his colleague visited Indonesia during August 5 to 11 to carry out the Project for Earthquake Safer Built Environment employing PP-Band Mesh Seismic Retrofit Technology for Masonry Housing to be implemented by JICA in the framework of the Grass Root Technical Cooperation Program which aims at a seismic resilient society in Indonesia.

Professor K. Meguro and his ICUS colleague visited Myanmar from September 17 to 20 to hold the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) of the JICA-JST SATREPS (Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development) project. The SATREPS is a Japanese government program that promotes international joint research. The program is structured as a collaboration between the JST, which provides competitive research funds for science and technology projects, and JICA, which provides development assistance (ODA). Based on the needs of developing countries, the program aims to address global issues and lead to research outcomes of practical benefit to both local and global society (after SATREPS web site).

Professor K. Meguro with ICUS colleagues visited Kathmandu from October 27 to November 2 to

attend J-Rapid Kick-off meeting and to hold the 14th International Symposium for New Technologies for Urban Safety of Mega Cities in Asia (USMCA 2015). At the J-Rapid Kick-off meeting, Professor Meguro gave a lecture “Vulnerability assessment of Kathmandu valley and surrounding areas based on comprehensive damage investigation of the 2015 Nepal-Gorkha earthquake.” About USMCA 2015, Professor Meguro was the co-chair person and he gave a keynote lecture “Comprehensive disaster management and disaster imagination capacity.”

Professor K. Meguro was invited to Jakarta, Indonesia from November 22 to 25 to attend the Symposium entitled “Building National Resilience: Urging the Declaration of World Tsunami Day on November 5 and Enhancing Global Awareness on Disaster Management and Prevention.” At the Symposium, he gave an invited lecture “Lessons Learned from Recent Disasters and Countermeasures against Future Catastrophes.”

Professor K. Meguro visited to Bangkok, Thailand and Yangon, Myanmar in from December 9 to 14, 2015. He organized Utokyo alumni seminar and the 9th IIS and Utokyo alumni Thai chapter party on 10th December in Bangkok. Over 30 people participated in the seminar and Professor Meguro gave a lecture “Recent disaster management issues in Japan.” In the alumni party, over 40 members, half are Japanese graduates and the half are Thai graduates, participated and enjoyed the party. From 11th to 14th, December, 2015 they visited Yangon to have meetings of SATREPS projects and attend the 6th International Conference on Science and Engineering (6 ICSE). At 6ICSE, Professor Meguro gave a lecture “Development of A Comprehensive Disaster Resilience and Collaboration Platform in Myanmar as A SATREPS Project.”

Professor K. Meguro was invited to Kathmandu, Nepal from 22nd to 24th February, 2016 by Ritsumeikan University, Japan to attend a Workshop on the Post-Earthquake Recovery of Cultural Heritage in Nepal.

At the workshop, he gave a lecture “Technologies for Seismic Strengthening of Traditional Masonry Structures in Kathmandu Valley.”

Professor K. Meguro with ICUS colleagues visited Yangon, Myanmar from 11 to 13 March, 2016 to manage the JICA-JST SATREPS-Myanmar project.

Prof. K. Meguro has published 15 technical papers including conference papers in academic year of 2015. Among them, 16 papers were written in English and are listed in this volume. Newspapers and TV have introduced and reported his various research topics and outputs 20 times in the year. He has given special lectures as an invited lecturer 37 times by Japanese organizations and 13 times by oversea

and international organizations.

Associate Professor T. Kiyota visited University of Bristol, the UK, as a visiting fellow since 18th September 2014 to 17th September 2015.

Associate Professor T. Kiyota and his colleagues conducted damage survey in Nepal after Gorkha Earthquake, 1-6 May 2015.

Associate Professor T. Kiyota attended the 2016 conference of SECED (Society for Earthquake and Civil Engineering Dynamics), Cambridge, the UK, 9-10 July 2015.

Associate Professor T. Kiyota attended the sixth International Conference on Earthquake Geotechnical Engineering, Christchurch, NZ, 1-4 November 2015.

Associate Professor T. Kiyota attended the 15th Asian Regional Conference of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, Fukuoka, Japan, 9-13 November 2015.

Associate Professor T. Kiyota and his colleagues made geological survey trip to Pokhara in Nepal affected by sinkhole damage, 29 November-5 December 2015.

Associate Professor T. Kiyota and his colleagues conducted damage survey in Tainan, Taiwan, after Taiwan Earthquake, 2-3 March 2016.

Professor Y. Nakano was awarded by the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) project on “Technical Development to Upgrade Structural Integrity of Buildings in Densely Populated Urban Areas and its Strategic Implementation towards Resilient Cities” by Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Professor Y. Nakano and Dr. K. Matsukawa visited Dhaka, Bangladesh where is the recipient country of the project, during the period of April 23 to May 2, July 29 to August 8, September 12 to 24, and November 3 to 13, to discuss and determine the project details.

Professor Y. Nakano was invited to the Technical Meeting of CNCRP on Development of Safer Buildings, Overcoming the Tragedy of Rana Plaza Incident, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on April 25. He made a presentation on “Knowledge Sharing and Technology Transfer through Challenging Researches toward Safer Urban Cities in Bangladesh”.

Professor Y. Nakano attended the Seminar on Seismic Assessment and Retrofitting, held in University of Asia Pacific, Dhaka, Bangladesh, on April 29. He made a presentation on “Seismic Evaluation and Rehabilitation of Vulnerable RC Buildings –Experiences and Lessons in Japan–”.

Professor Y. Nakano attended the Technical Seminar with Turkish Delegations, held in Japan Building Disaster Prevention Association, Tokyo, Japan, on June 10. He made a presentation on “Guidelines for Post-Earthquake Damage Evaluation and Rehabilitation of RC Buildings in Japan.

Professor Y. Nakano, Dr. H. Choi, Dr. K. Matsukawa, Mr. T. Asai, Ms. A. Suzuki, and Mr. Y. Nemoto visited Shizuoka prefecture, Japan during the period of September 30 to October 2 to investigate boats, vessels, shipping container, etc. as tsunami debris and existing tsunami evacuation facilities along its coastal area.

Professor Y. Nakano attended the 14th International Symposium on New Technologies for Urban Safety of Mega Cities (USMCA2015) in Asia held in Kathmandu, Nepal, and also investigated the building damage affected by the 2015 Nepal Earthquake, during the period of October 27 to November 2.

Professor Y. Nakano was invited to the Keynote lecture at the Seminar on Design and Construction of Earthquake Resilient Structures, held in Radisson Blue Water Garden Hotel, Dhaka, Bangladesh, on November 5. He made a presentation on “Japanese Experience on Design and Construction of Earthquake Resilient Structures –Pre- and Post-Earthquake Actions–”.

Prof. Kawaguchi organized the pre-symposium seminar for the International Association for Shell and Spatial Structures 2016 Annual International Symposium at Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Sendai, Kanazawa and Fukuoka, Japan from May to July, 2015. There were three topics. 1. “Safety measures against accidental fall of ceilings and other non-structural components in large enclosures” lectured by Mr. Ishizaki and Mr. Utashiro from Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Prof. Kawaguchi from the Univ. of Tokyo, Mr. Noguchi and Nishimura from Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Mr. Kawashima from Kajima Co., Ms. Fukuchi from Nagata Acoustics and Mr. Kobayakawa from Taisei Co. 2. “Damage to large enclosures during heavy snow” lectured by Mr. Hosozawa from Taisei Co., Prof. Takahashi from Chiba Univ., Prof.em. Kato from Toyohashi Univ. Tech. and Prof. Kawaguchi from the Univ. of Tokyo. 3. “Large spatial structures in space” lectured by Assoc. Prof. from Japan

Aerospace Exploration Agency, Prof. Miyazaki from Nihon Univ., Mr. Watanabe from WEL Research Co., Dr. Joudoi from Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and Prof. Suzuki from the Univ. of Tokyo.

From 14th to 22th Aug., 2015, Prof. Kawaguchi and Dr. Nakaso attended the International Association for Shell and Spatial Structures 2015 Annual International Symposium held at Amsterdam, The Netherlands and Dr. Nakaso received the “Hangai Prize” for the paper “Seismic Control with Tensioned Cables for Suspended Ceilings”.

Mr. T. Hashiba, a graduate student advised by Prof. Kawaguchi, was awarded the Best Presentation Prize of Shell and Spatial Structure Session at the Annual Meeting of AIJ in Tokai, Japan, on Sep. 4-6, 2015. The paper is entitled “The preliminary study on the stress analysis and the assembling procedure of the tower-formed tensegrity framework”.

Mr. and Mrs. Sono and Mr. Rudakevych who work for “Clouds Architecture Office” and are the winners of NASA’s competition for the habitat on Mars visited Prof. Kawaguchi to deliver a seminar “Seminar of the Mars Ice House Project: Reaching New Typology”.

Professor R. Kuwano visited Seoul and KAIST, Deajeonon in Korea, on 14-15 May 2015 to give a lecture on road cave-in.

Professor R. Kuwano and Associate Professor Kiyota, together with graduate students and staffs of Kiyota laboratory, conducted field investigation for sinkholes occurred in Pokhara, Nepal, in 11-17 July and 29 November - 6 December 2015.

Professor R. Kuwano visited Bangkok to investigate the subsurface cavity on 19-22 October 2015.

Professor R. Kuwano attended the 14th International Symposium on New Technologies for Urban Safety of Mega Cities in Asia held in Kathmandu, Nepal, in 29 - 30 October 2015.

Professor R. Kuwano attended the 6th International Conference on Earthquake Geotechnical Engineering held in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 1 - 4 November 2015.

Professor R. Kuwano, together with a graduate student of Kuwano laboratory, attended the 15th Asian Regional Conference on Geotechnical Engineering held in Fukuoka, in 9 - 13 November 2015.

Professor R. Kuwano, together with a graduate student of Kuwano laboratory, attended the 6th International Symposium on Deformation Characteristics of Geomaterials held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 15 - 18 November 2015.