

Newsletter

ISSUE No. 2

A Newsletter of the Graduate Program for Foreign Students
at Civil & Environmental Engineering of Saitama University

WINTER 1996

Strengthening Overseas Ties — Pillars of our Graduate Program

Walk down the corridors and surely you would bump into some of the 45 friendly faces from different countries of the world. The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering is becoming the choice of many young people seeking graduate study attracting about 150 applications annually the past years. Looking back at the past year, we have been very successful in helping highly qualified students from developing countries to come to our university to study. The major achievement last year was obtaining grants from the Asian Development Bank to support 10 scholars to add to our Monbuscho scholars. Our new profile has also attracted quite a few students who came on their own funding or through scholarship from their home governments (Iran, Indonesia, Egypt).

Knowing that this is the cornerstone of our graduate program, we have to strive more to strengthen overseas ties on different fronts. Let's review our efforts in the past year.

Deepen Ties with Sister Universities

First of all, we continue to strengthen ties with Thammasat University in Thailand. Agreements of academic exchanges were signed last December between Saitama University (Faculty of Engineering, Graduate School of Science of Engineering) and Thammasat University. The agreements spell out ways to promote exchanges not only between faculty members but also among students.

Last October, the head of the international affairs of Dalian University of Technology hosted a banquet for Prof. Mutsuyoshi and Assoc. Prof. Tanzo when they paid a courtesy visit to the university while attending the workshop-meeting on "Model Concrete Code for Asia". Saitama University and DUT has maintained good academic ties and at present, 2 students from DUT are studying at the Department.

Promotion in Overseas Universities

The past year, members of the Department while attending international conferences have visited and given talks on our special program at several overseas universities. FSO believes very much in this effort and


is presently upgrading its promotional materials for faculty members while overseas attending international conferences.

Our Graduates Our alumni are doing much of their share too. Among the recommendation letters in this year's application we found names of our first batch graduated from the program -Dr. Harshinie, Dr. Matupayont, Dr. Adhikari, a sure sign that these graduates are proud of their Alma Mater and are helping the promotion of our graduate program. In return we should make greater efforts in providing our graduates with every possible support in their young and budding careers.

Message from Head of Foreign Students Office

I am glad to send the second issue of Newsletter. Firstly, congratulations on graduation! In 1996, the seven doctor and two master students obtained degrees from our program. I wish you every success and happiness in the future. We welcomed the new students in 1996. We had 150 applicants to our graduate program and after severe screening, the five students were admitted to the doctoral program and the fourteen were admitted to the master's program. Since the number of foreign students in our program is gradually increasing every year, we have hired two secretaries for the FSO and an additional instructor for the Japanese language class. I hope that all of you are working actively and are in good health. I am looking forward to hearing good news from you.

Best wishes,



Hiroshi Mutsuyoshi
Professor and Head of FSO

Graduation Time Congratulations

Mr. Ahmed Khalaf Abdel-Lah, an Egyptian joined the Environmental Hydrology Lab as a doctoral student, after completing his masters at Assiut University, Egypt. His research was on Ground Water Movement Beneath the Ground Surface due to Evapo-Transpiration under the guidance of Assoc.Prof. K. Watanabe. Mr. Khalaf was awarded the DEng degree in September 1996. He was supported by the Japanese Government scholarship (Monbusho) during his study. At present he is a Lecturer at the Assiut University, Egypt.

Mr. Nakhorn Poovarodom from Thailand was attached to the Structural Lab as a doctoral student after completing his MEng from AIT, Bangkok. His doctoral thesis was on the Localization of Vibrations in Civil Engineering Structures under the guidance of Prof. H. Yamaguchi. Mr. Nakhorn was awarded the PhD degree in September 1996. His study was supported by the Japanese Government scholarship (Monbusho). He is presently employed as a Lecturer at Thammasat University, Thailand.

Mr. Nguyen Van Hoang a Vietnamese joined the Environmental Hydrology Lab as a doctoral student. His research was on the Optimization and control of Groundwater Resources in Urban Areas under the guidance of Prof. K. Sato. Mr. Hoang was awarded the DEng degree in September 1996. He was supported by the Japanese Government scholarship (Monbusho) during his study.

Mr. Xu Xie from China joined the Structural Lab as a doctoral student, after completing his Masters from Tianjin University, China. His doctoral research was on the Instability of Long Span Cable Stayed Bridges under the guidance of Prof. H. Yamaguchi. Mr. Xie was awarded the PhD degree in September 1996. His study was supported by the Japanese Government scholarship (Monbusho). At present he is working as a Research Associate at

RESEARCH PROFILE Soil Mechanics Laboratory

Soil Mechanics Laboratory of the Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering is headed by Prof. M. Oda. With him are Assoc. Prof. K. Suzuki who joined the department in April 1996 and research associate K. Kawamoto.

The laboratory is equipped with modern equipment to conduct experiments with very high degree of control and reliability. Among the testing apparatuses are vibration triaxial test apparatus, K_0 -triaxial test apparatus, X-ray diffraction testing machine and a microscope. The laboratory is also equipped with a temperature controlled room. Computing facilities consist of four workstations including two of a latest model, many personal computers and scanners.

The laboratory is engaged in carrying out fundamental as well as applied research. Among the experimental studies being carried out at the moment are liquefaction and re-liquefaction of soil, strength anisotropy of lightly over consolidated clay, bearing capacity of shallow footing on anisotropic foundation, micro-mechanically oriented studies on mechanics of granular materials and micro-structure in shear bands and hydro-mechanical behavior of jointed rock mass. Some of the numerical studies in progress are, evaluation of liquefaction potential by distinct element method and deformation behavior of foundations of oil tanks and off-shore structures by elastoplastic kinematic hardening model.

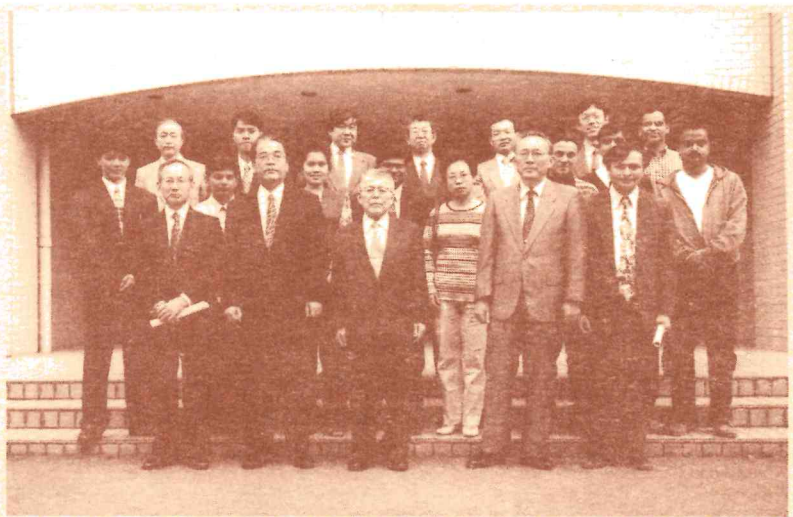
Further, the soil mechanics laboratory is also carrying out research with the collaboration of rock mechanics laboratory on Mechanism of brittle fracture of rocks with the use of a triaxial test apparatus (see photo) of capacities of very high pressure (140MPa) and temperature (200°C).

Each year, about 10 undergraduate students work in the soil mechanics laboratory for their final year research component. In the graduate course programs there are six native students and a foreign student in the master's degree course and a foreign student in the doctoral degree course.



Saitama University.

Mr. Paul de Jesus Bidon, a Filipino national joined the Base Construction Lab as a masters student. His master thesis was on the Simplified Input Output Relation Method Using AR Model for Analysis of Wave Propagation of Actual Earthquake Records under the guidance of Prof. E. Kawakami. Mr. Paul was awarded MEng in September 1996. He was a Monbusho scholar. He is presently connected with an engineering consulting firm in Philippines.



The Entrance Ceremony in October

Welcome New Students

October 1996

Doctoral Program

Mr. Wael Zatar from Egypt, completed his masters degree at Cairo University, Egypt in 1994, and was working as a Senior Design Engineer at the Egyptian-German Company for Metallic Constructions, Egypt. Mr. Zatar is attached to the Reinforced Concrete lab under the guidance of Prof. H. Mutsuyoshi.

Mr. Kumud Acharya from Nepal, completed his masters degree at Bradley University, USA in 1995, and was working as a Environmental Engineer at Design Consortium Pvt. Ltd., Nepal. Mr. Acharya is attached to the Environmental Engineering lab under the guidance of Assoc. Prof. T. Asaeda.

Mr. Krishna Murari Neaupane from Nepal, completed his masters degree at Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand in 1995 and was working as a Geotechnical Engineer at IBC Co. Ltd., Thailand. Mr. Neaupane is attached to the Geotech/Rock Mech lab under the guidance of Prof. R. Yoshinaka.

Mr. D.G.T. Priyadarshana from Sri Lanka, completed his masters degree at University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka, in 1996, and was working as a Demonstrator in the same university. Mr.

Priyadarshana is attached to the Environmental Engineering lab under the guidance of Assoc. Prof. T. Asaeda.

Master Program

Mr. Tolga Piskiner from Turkey, completed his bachelor degree at Bogazici University, Turkey in 1996. Mr. Piskiner is attached to the Structural Engineering lab under the guidance of Prof. H. Yamaguchi.

Mr. Chakree Bamrungwong from Thailand, completed his bachelor degree at International Institute of Technology Thammasat University, Thailand in 1995. Mr. Bamrungwong is attached to the Concrete lab under the guidance of Prof. A. Machida.

Mr. Hieu Dang Phung from Vietnam, completed his bachelor degree at Vietnam National University, Hanoi in 1993 and was working as a teacher in the same university. Mr. Phung is attached to the Coastal Environmental Engineering lab under the guidance of Prof. K. Tanimoto.

Ms. Wijewardena P.S.D. Shriyangi from Sri Lanka completed her bachelor degree at University of Peradeniya, Sri

Lanka in 1995 and was working as an Assistant Lecturer in the same university. Ms. Shriyangi is attached to the Environmental Engineering lab under the guidance of Assoc. Prof. K. Watanabe.

Ms. Nguyen Chuc Diep from Vietnam completed her bachelor degree at University of Civil Engineering, Vietnam in 1994 and was working as a Lecturer in the same university. Ms. Diep is attached to the Environmental Engineering lab under the guidance of Prof. K. Fujita.

Mr. Daniel C. Peckley Jr. from Philippines, completed his bachelor degree at University of the Philippines in 1995 and was working as a structural Engineer at Aromin & Sy + Associates, Inc., Philippines. Mr. Peckley is attached to the Structural Engineering lab under the guidance of Assoc. Prof. Y. Okui.

Mr. Shailendra Sharma from India, completed his masters degree at Indian Institute of Technology, India in 1986 and was working as an executive Engineer at Central Public Works Department, Govt. of India, India. Mr. Sharma is attached to the Earthquake Engineering lab under the guidance of Prof. H. Kawakami.

New Appointments

Dr. Han Sixiong has been appointed by the Ground Structure Engineering Laboratory as an associate professor from June 1996. His research fields are mechanical modeling and numerical analysis of wave propagation problems in geomechanics.

The Department of Environmental Science has appointed Dr. Takeshi Fujino as a research associate from June 1996. His research field is environmental science, including atmospheric environment and aquatic environmental engineering.

The Structural Engineering Laboratory has appointed Dr. Xie Xu as a research associate from October 1996. His research field is longspan cable support bridge analysis.

Dr. Fukabori Kiyotaka has been appointed by the Urban Environment Laboratory as a research associate from April 1997. His research field is urban planning.

Mr. Takeshi Maki has joined our department as a research associate from April 1997. His research field is concrete engineering.

Mr. Ken Kawamoto has joined our department as a research associate from April 1997. His research field is soil mechanics.

Faculty on Move

Prof. Katsutoshi Tanimoto has gone to Thammasat University, Thailand for a period of one year from September 1996 serving as the JICA expert.

Prof. Hiroyuki Watanabe has come back from Thammasat University, Thailand, where he served as the JICA expert from June 1995 to July 1996.

Assoc. Prof. Ryokichi Hamajima has been appointed as a new faculty

in the newly established Institute for Geological Study of Saitama University. However, he is still working with the Graduate Program for foreign students at Civil and Environmental Engineering Department. His research field is Geomechanical Engineering.

Prof. Yuzo Akatsuka retired from Saitama Univ. and joins Toyo Univ., Japan, where he will serve as Dean of the Faculty of International Study, from April 1997. His research fields are infrastructure development and management, and project evaluation.

Dr. Rajesh Adhikari has moved to the Univ. of California at San Diego, USA, where he will work as a post-doctoral fellow. His research field is structural dynamics.

Assoc. Prof. Yoshiaki Okui has come back to Saitama Univ. from the Delft Univ. of Technology, where he worked for one year as a Japanese Government funded research fellow. His field is micromechanics.

Assoc. Prof. Kazuyoshi Iwashita has come back to Saitama Univ. from Univ. of California at Berkeley, USA, where he worked for one year as a Japanese Government research fellow. His research field is dynamic

properties of soil materials.

Faculty Upswing

Dr. Vu Thanh Ca has been promoted to Associate Professor from October, 1996. Dr. Vu Thanh Ca's major field of specialization is coastal environmental engineering, atmospheric and aquatic environment.

Awards

A paper titled "Distribution of Particle Velocity Due to Waves on Very Steep Slope", authored by Zhao Qun (a doctoral student), Shigeru Nakamura and Katsutoshi Tanimoto was awarded the Best Scientific Paper Awards at the 10th Congress of the Asia-Pacific Division of the International Association for Hydraulic Research.

Mr. Thiru. Aravinthan was awarded the Excellent Presentation Award for his paper titled "Flexural Behavior of Two Span continuous Segmental PC Beams with External Tendons", presented at the annual convention of Japan Concrete Institute (JCI) held in Chiba, July 1996.

Messages from the Foreign Student Office

Ms. Nakasone and Ms. Nakazawa, two secretaries of the FSO, have been working hard to support the foreign students. At present we are handling matters for ADB and Monbusho scholars. If you have any questions about the application forms and other related matters, please feel free to contact us. Also, we are looking forward to hearing good news from the alumni.

FSO will be moving to a new room soon. Now in our campus, the cherry blossoms are in full bloom.

The FSO has started its own home page at <http://ce1.ol.civil.saitama-u.ac.jp/fso/>.

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