

Newsletter

International Graduate Program on Civil & Environmental Engineering

20th Year since the First Batch of Students of Our International Graduate Program Graduated

It has been 20 years since the first batch of students graduated from the International Graduate Program of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Our program was established in October 1992, and seven of the applicants were enrolled to the three-year doctoral program and awarded the Monbukagakusho (MEXT) scholarships. In October 1993, the first batch of applicants for the two-year master's program were enrolled, two of whom were awarded MEXT scholarships. All students obtained their degrees in 1995 and became the first graduates of our program. Since then, with continuous improvement in quality, the program gradually expanded and enrollment increased. In October 1995, one applicant was awarded the Joint Japan–World Bank (JJ/WB) scholarship. This was also the first time this scholarship was offered. The first batch of master level students was awarded the Asian Development Bank–Japan (ADB–JSP) scholarship in April 1996. In addition, the number of private students has also increased in the past two decades. As of April 2014, 248 master's students and 136 doctoral students from

26 different countries have graduated. Our alumni are active in academia, research, industry, and government-related employment or are pursuing higher studies. We keep in touch with our alumni and several of them who work in academia have established collaborations with our university. We regard the excellent performance of our alumni in their career paths as a reflection of the quality of the education

offered by our university. According to the feedback from our alumni, they are overwhelmingly satisfied with the education they received in Saitama University, and acknowledge its contribution to their career paths. We aim at providing high quality education by continuously striving for innovation in our graduate program and we sincerely welcome excellent students to apply for our program.



Message From the Head of Foreign Student Office

I hope this newsletter finds you all well. The graduation ceremony for the first batch of students is still vivid in my memory. Twenty years have passed, and how time flies! I am very pleased to see that our program has improved in the past two decades. In March 2014, 17 students obtained their degrees and started pursuing their careers or higher study, while new students joined us in April. As you all know, Tokyo has been announced as the host city of the 2020 Summer Olympics. The slogan of Tokyo 2020 is “Discover Tomorrow”. To realize this vision, young engineers and researchers should strive to contribute to the promotion of infrastructure and environment, thus building a brighter future of our society.

Last month, I attended the Spring 2014 Convention of the

American Concrete Institute (ACI) in Reno, Nevada, USA and was elected as an ACI fellow. It is not only my personal honor but also a reflection of the active collaboration of our staff with their international peers. We are now continuously enhancing such collaborations in both research and education with universities and research institutes in other countries.



Professor Hiroshi Mutsuyoshi

Head of the Foreign Student Office
Saitama University

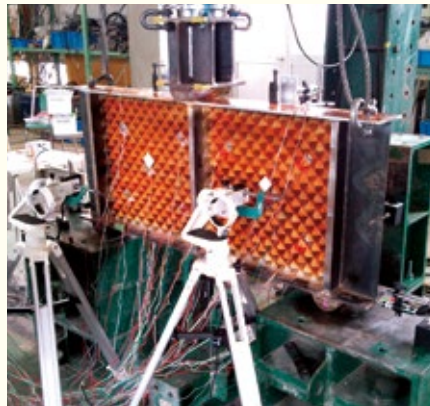
Prof. Mutsuyoshi with
ACI President Ms. Anne M. Elli

Research Profile Series (18)

Structural Mechanics and Dynamics Group

The structural mechanics and dynamics group (SMDG) is an educational and research group within the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Saitama University, which is led by Professors Hiroki Yamaguchi, Yoshiaki Okui, Yasunao Matsumoto, and Asst. Prof. Ji Dang. This group also includes four doctoral, seven master's, and ten undergraduate students. SMDG has international collaborations with faculty members from partner universities sharing advancements in research.

The research activities at SMDG are mainly in the field of structural engineering, which deals with the design, construction, monitoring, and maintenance of structural systems. Although the structural engineering field is broad and multidisciplinary, the research activities at SMDG include the subfields of engineering mechanics, structural dynamics, and human response to vibration and noise. The research in engineering mechanics is concerned with the behavior and modeling of high-damping rubber bearings, plate buckling of normal and high-performance bridge steel, and the mechanical properties of steel plate girders with structured webs. The research in the structural dynamics field encompasses the evaluation of energy-based damping, the modal damping ratio as damage indicator in structural systems, the gust response of transmission lines, the seismic performance of steel bridges, and the response of isolated bridges to seismic loads. Human response to vibration and noise is gaining attention because of the increasing generations of vibration and noise from industry, infrastructures, and other sources, which are a cause of annoyance to humans. Ongoing research in the field includes the subjective response of humans to building vibration, the dynamic interaction between structure and humans, the prediction of environmental vibration due to traffic-induced bridge vibration, and the control of environmental vibration due to construction work.



There are state-of-the-art laboratory facilities for experiments related to the above research activities. The group is also equipped with the latest software for numerical modeling and simulations. SMDG provides an excellent research environment for learning and professional growth.

Prestressed concrete (PC) bridges are an intrinsic part of road infrastructure and subject to deterioration that may not be detected during periodic visual inspections, which could lead to catastrophic collapse. As part of my master's thesis, I decided to pursue research related to the vibration-based structural health monitoring of bridges, as a detection method of such invisible damages. Owing to structural damages, changes in mass, stiffness, and damping properties are expected to result in changes in dynamic characteristics, such as natural frequency, mode shape, and modal damping ratio. The research objectives are to demonstrate the reliable identification of modal damping ratios of PC bridges and the feasibility of using low-cost wireless sensors.

(Written by Mr. Sheharyar e Rehmat)

Graduation Time Congratulations

September 2013

Mr. Do Duy Dinh from Vietnam was awarded his Ph.D. degree under the guidance of Prof. H. Kubota.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar Goit from Nepal was awarded his Ph.D. degree under the guidance of Associate Prof. M. Saitoh.

Mr. De Silva Petthayaddehi Kasun Chirantha from Sri Lanka was awarded his Ph.D. degree under the guidance of Prof. N. Tanaka.

Ms. Ei Ei Mon from Myanmar was awarded her Ph.D. degree under the guidance of Prof. K. Kawamoto.

Mr. Wael Elham Mohamed Sabry Mahmod from Egypt was awarded his D.Eng. degree under the guidance of Prof. K. Watanabe.

Mr. Dang Viet Duc from Vietnam was awarded his Ph.D. degree under the guidance of Prof. Y. Okui.

Mr. Mohammad Najmol Haque from Bangladesh was awarded his M.Eng. degree under the guidance of Prof. H. Mutsuyoshi.

Ms. Sabai Oo from Myanmar was awarded her M.Eng. degree under the guidance of Prof. K. Watanabe.

Mr. Mohammad Rajib from Bangladesh was awarded his M.Eng. degree under the guidance of Associate Prof. C. T. Oguchi.

March 2014

Mr. Pham Viet Hung from Vietnam was awarded his Ph.D. degree under the guidance of Prof. H. Yamaguchi.

Mr. Abdul Rahimi Bin Abdul Rahman from Malaysia was awarded his M.Eng. degree under the guidance of Prof. H. Kubota.

Ms. Nguyen Thi Hai Duong from Vietnam was awarded her M.Eng. degree under the guidance of Associate Prof. C. T. Oguchi.

Ms. Hasina Iasmin from Bangladesh was awarded her M.Eng. degree under the guidance of Prof. H. Kubota.

Mr. Asif Arshid from Pakistan was awarded his M.Eng. degree under the guidance of Prof. K. Iwashita and Assistant Prof. H. Taniyama.

Mr. Chandana Nawarathna from Sri Lanka was awarded his M.Eng. degree under the guidance of Prof. H. Mutsuyoshi.

Mr. Kamal Kumar Adhikari from Nepal was awarded his M.Eng. degree under the guidance of Prof. H. Kubota.

Mr. Syed Kamran Hussain Shah from Pakistan was awarded his M.Eng. degree under the guidance of Assistant Prof. S. Tachibana.

Ms. Logagowry Karunananthasivam from Sri Lanka was awarded her M.Eng. degree under the guidance of Prof. K. Suzuki.

Mr. Mahadev Thapa from Nepal was awarded his M.Eng. degree under the guidance of Associate Prof. S. Asamoto.

Ms. Margarita Pelango Dizon from Philippines was awarded her M.Eng. degree under the guidance of Prof. H. Kawakami.

Mr. Md. Shafquat Hasan from Bangladesh was awarded his M.Eng. degree under the guidance of Prof. Y. Okui.

Mr. Naba Raj Shrestha from Nepal was awarded his M.Eng. degree under the guidance of Associate Prof. M. Saitoh.

Ms. W. N. Kumuduni Dharmarathne from Sri Lanka was awarded her M.Eng. degree under the guidance of Prof. K. Kawamoto.

Ms. Sushmita Hossain from Bangladesh was awarded her M.Eng. degree under the guidance of Associate Prof. C. T. Oguchi.

Mr. Pham Thanh Tung from Vietnam was awarded his M.Eng. degree under the guidance of Associate Prof. M. Saitoh.

Mr. G. G. T. Chandrathilake from Sri Lanka was awarded his M.Eng. degree under the guidance of Assistant Prof. J. Yagisawa.

Welcome New Students

October 2013



Choudhury Md. Shahnewaz Islam
Bangladesh, Doctor



Mustafa Samim
India, Doctor



Qazi Asif Nawaz
Pakistan, Doctor



Rajib Mohammad
Bangladesh, Doctor



Rangga Adiprima Sudisman
Indonesia, Doctor



Rashid Hafiz M. Awais
Pakistan, Doctor



Udagedara Dashan Tharanga
Sri Lanka, Doctor



Aung Aung Soe
Myanmar, Master

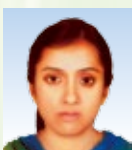


Md. Shajib Ullah
Bangladesh, Master



Nepal Sandhya
Nepal, Master

April 2014



Iasmin Hasina
Bangladesh, Doctor



Peng Zhang
China, Master



Abdur Rahman
Bangladesh, Master



Ashish Shrestha
Nepal, Master



Chavin Nilanga Naotunna
Sri Lanka, Master



Dileepa C. Hettiarachchi
Sri Lanka, Master



Giang Truong Dang
Vietnam, Master



Jayruel Rojas Delabajan
Philippines, Master



Kunj Anand Vaidya
Nepal, Master



Mahmudur Rahman
Bangladesh, Master



Moniruzzaman Md.
Bangladesh, Master



Muhammad Waqas
Pakistan, Master



Sabin Singh
Nepal, Master



Saqib Habib
Pakistan, Master

News

Faculty Promotion

Prof. Hiroki Yamaguchi was appointed as the President of Saitama University in April 2014. Congratulations on his new role of the university president.

New Appointments

Dr. Yao Luan was appointed as an assistant professor of Structural Material Eng. Laboratory in October 2013. His research interest is concrete engineering.

Dr. Han Soo Lee was appointed as an associate professor of Environmental and Hydraulic Eng. Laboratory in April 2014. His research interest is coastal hazards and disaster mitigation.

Dr. Takeshi Saito was appointed as an assistant professor of Strategic Research and Development Division in April 2014. His research fields are hydrogeochemistry and geo-environmental engineering.

Faculty on Move

Prof. Kunio Watanabe retired from Saitama University in March 2014 and became an emeritus professor. He is currently working as a visiting professor at Saitama University.

Dr. Shoichiro Hamamoto resigned from Saitama University in September 2013. He is currently working for University of Tokyo.

Condolences

Prof. Kazuyoshi Iwashita passed away on September 20, 2013. His research field was mechanics of granular materials. We would like to express our sincerest condolences on his death.

Awards

Prof. Hiroshi Mutsuyoshi was elected as an ACI (American Concrete Institute) Fellow at the ACI spring convention on March 23, 2014 in Reno, Nevada, USA.

Prof. Jiro Kuwano was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal of the Japanese Geotechnical Society in June 2014.

Assoc. Prof. Shingo Asamoto was awarded the Excellent Presentation Award in the 67th Japan Cement Association Annual Convention in 2013.

Assist. Prof. Ji Dang was awarded Excellent Paper Award in the 2nd International Symposium on Earthquake Engineering, 2013 for the paper "Nonlinear numerical hysteresis model for bi-directionally loaded elastomeric isolation bearings".

Dr. Rama Mohan Pokhrel (Doctoral graduate in 2011), who is a JSPS post-doctoral research fellow at Univ. of Tokyo, was awarded Young Scientist

Award 2013 by Nepal Academy of Science and Technology for his new research contribution in the field of earthquake liquefaction and its zoning.

Mr. Mohammad Rajib was awarded the 2013 Student Outstanding Presentation Award (Human Geosciences) in Japan Geoscience Union Meeting in May 2013 for the paper "Variations in adsorption coefficient of ^{133}Cs and ^{87}Sr caused by oxidation of pumice tuff".

Message from Alumni

I am really pleased to share my experiences in Japan through this message. I obtained M.Eng. degree in 2009 and Ph.D. degree in 2013 under the International Graduate Program with financial supports from the ADB-JSP scholarship and Japanese Government scholarship program. I got a good opportunity to pursue my research at Soil Mechanics Lab for five years, majoring in the fields of geotechnical and geoenvironmental engineering, which highly broadened my prior knowledge.



During my stay in Japan, I could experience not only advanced learning programs, but also various social and cultural activities which are invaluable in my professional life. As one of my academic experiences, I received persistent guidance from professors and was able to have mutual discussions with them, which were advantageous to the success of my research. I greatly enjoyed my student life at Saitama University by participating in different traditional Japanese ceremonies like the Japanese tea ceremony and many student activities, particularly the Mutsume Festival.

Currently, I am working as an environmental expert for infrastructure projects in Myanmar. I do believe that I will utilize my enhanced academic knowledge for infrastructure development in our country. I hope that many international students will join this program, take advantage of opportunities like learning Japanese language, improve their ability and contribute their gained knowledge to the development of their countries in the future.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to the Japanese Government for supporting international students who can become good leaders in a variety of career fields in their home country.

With all best wishes and warmest regards,

Ei Ei Mon

Yangon, Myanmar

Message from the Foreign Student Office

How do you like your job? We hope everything is fine with you. We are happy to welcome 14 new students into our graduate program in April 2014.

We have great news. Prof. Yamaguchi has become the President of Saitama University. Maybe you will be proud that you are one of his students. We also would like to introduce a new reliable FSO member, Dr. Luan. He is helping us with FSO matters and we are really glad to work with him.

We are pleased to inform you that we have issued our 2014 alumni directory, which is the fifth edition, including our graduates' data from September 1995 to March 2014. If you submitted your tracer

form, your information is updated. Thank you for your cooperation in sending us your tracer form.

Please feel free to contact us. We can't wait to hear what you have been doing lately.

Best wishes for your future.

The Foreign Student Office (FSO)

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