

# Newsletter

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

SUMMER 1996

It has already been more than three years since the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department of Saitama University introduced its graduate program in English open to the foreign students. The first batch of this program, called Special Program, is already out and it's really nice to hear that all of them are doing great in their respective professional fields in various parts of the world. We always wish you the best in your career and would always be glad to hear from you about your present status and career achievements.

Since the Special Program is getting popularity in different countries and the number of foreign students in this department is continuously increasing (we now have more than thirty foreign graduate students in this department!), we have decided to bring this Newsletter to keep all the students and the alumni of this department in touch with the latest developments in the department. At the same time, we would also like to hear from you. And, as a result, the first issue of the Newsletter, which is intended to make a bridge between the department and its alumni, is at your hand. This Newsletter is initially planned to be published once a year. Alumnus, please con-

tribute to it and help the Foreign Student Office of this department keep in touch with you. Let the department know about your whereabouts! We would be happy to put your message in these pages.

## Message from Head of Foreign Students Office



I am very glad to send this Newsletter to you. It was 1992 when the International Graduate Program for Foreign Students supported by the Japanese Government Scholarship was first established. Though this program is still young, the number of foreign students applying to this program has continuously been increasing ever since it was started. Since The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has also agreed upon to support five scholarships to this program, we are now able to provide full scholarships to ten graduate students every year. It is my great pleasure that foreign students come to study at Saitama University and work actively all over the world in the field of Civil and Environmental Engineering after graduation. As the Head of FSO, I am very happy to invite you to write and let us hear news from you.

Hiroshi Mutsuyoshi  
Professor and Head of FSO



## Graduation Time Congratulations

Mr. Rajesh Adhikari, a Nepali national, received his Ph. D. degree in September 1995. His research was on "Wind-induced gust response of tall buildings and its robust-adaptive control," under the guidance of Prof. Yamaguchi. He is currently working as a Research Associate at Saitama University.

Mr. Songkiat Matupayont from Thailand, received his Ph. D. degree in September. His doctoral thesis was on the "Flexural behavior of externally prestressed concrete beams" under the guidance of Prof. Mutsuyoshi. He is presently employed as a Project Manager at Jean Muller International Inc., Thailand.

Mr. Zeng Yun Cao, a Chinese national, received his Ph. D. degree in September. His research was on the "Earthquake Response of dam-reservoir-foundation system and its analytical methods," under the guidance of Prof. Watanabe. He is currently working in Japan.

Mr. Mahesha Jayaweera, a Sri Lankan, received his Ph. D. degree in September. His thesis was on the "Mathematical modeling of bio-manipulation in shallow eutrophic lakes," under the guidance of Assoc. Prof. Asaeda. He is currently working as a Senior Lecturer at the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.

Ms. Harshinie Karunarathna, also a Sri Lankan, received her Ph. D. degree in September 1995. Her research was on "Short wave induced long-period fluctuations on reefs" under the supervision of Prof. Tanimoto. She is presently employed as a Senior Lecturer at the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.

Mr. Nguyen Ba Hoang, a Vietnamese, was awarded with Ph. D. degree in March 1996. His research was on the "Fuzzy approach for decision making in the bridge type selection system," under the guidance of Prof. Y. Kubota. He is currently working in Japan.

## ADB Scholarship Agreement Signed in Manila

The Asian Development Bank and Saitama University signed a Memorandum of Agreement last December 15, 1995 at the Asian Development Bank Headquarters in Manila, Philippines in which both institutions have agreed to cooperate in the development and implementation of a study program to train talented individuals on civil engineering and related fields which will contribute to foster economic and social development in the Asia-Pacific region. ADB will provide the funding to support the scholarship grants through the ADB Japan Scholarship Program, while Saitama University will provide training and education of the scholars through the Graduate Program for Foreign Students on "Environmental Management and Infrastructure Development Engineering" of the Graduate School of Science and Engineering. There are currently 14 institutions renowned for their program on economics, management, science and technology, and other development-related fields selected by ADB to cooperate on the program.

Present during the signing from the ADB side were some top bank officers: (1) Mr. Yang Weimin, Deputy Director and Officer-in-Charge, Agriculture and Social Sectors Department (signing for the Scholarship Administrator); (2) Mr. Soichi Yoshimura, Alternate Director for Japan; (3) Ms. Shigeko M. Asher, Manager, Education, Health & Population Division; (4) Mr. Edward M. Haugh, Jr., Sr. Project Specialist, Education, Health & Population Division; (5) Mr. Yasuhiko Wake, Japan Special Fund Coordinator, Co-financing Division; (6) Mr. Manuel Lino G. Faelnar, Counsel, Office of the General Counsel; and (7) Ms. Lina Garduque, ADB-JSP Assistant. Coming all the way from Urawa to represent Saitama University were: (1) Prof. Hideji Kawakami (Head of F.S.O. at the time) and Assoc. Prof. William Tanzo. Not present during the signing, but did all the instigations that pave the way for the agreement were Prof. Yuzo Akatsuka (Saitama University) and Scholarship Administrator Mr. Eustace Nonis (ADB).

The signing event was made very significant for the fact that it was the first time that an ADB-JSP agreement was signed with the presence of both parties, whereas all the previous agreements were made through correspondence. The signing ceremony was followed by a luncheon hosted by the Scholarship Administrator, and then a tour of the majestic ADB Headquarter building in the afternoon.

The agreement was followed by very quick implementation of the program with the acceptance of the first batch of 4 ADB-JSP scholars last April 1996 and the scheduled arrival of 6 more scholars in October 1996.





Mr. Eusuf Muhammad Abu, a Bangladeshi national, received his Ph. D. degree in March 1996. His research topic was on the "Thermal characteristics of synthetic surfaces and their effects on the heating of urban canopy," under the guidance of Assoc. Prof. T. Asaeda.

Mr. Mochammad Afifuddin, an Indonesian, received his M. Eng. degree in September 1995. His thesis was on the "Prediction of shear dominated behavior of concrete structures using smeared crack model," under the guidance of Prof. A. Machida. He is con-

tinuing the Doctoral course at Saitama University.

Mr. Chandana Kurukulasuriya, a Sri Lankan, was awarded M. Eng. in September 1995. His master thesis was "Bearing capacity on improved ground by numerical analysis using elasto-plastic hardening cap model," under the guidance of Prof. Oda. He is continuing his Doctoral course at Saitama University.

Mr. Raufdeen Rameezdeen, a Sri Lankan, received his M. Eng. degree in September 1995. His master thesis was

on the "Evaluation of Development Assistance for Economic Infrastructure in Asian Countries," under the supervision of Prof. Akatsuka. He is continuing his Doctoral course at Saitama University.

Mr. Thirugnanasuntharan Aravinthan, also a Sri Lankan, was awarded with M. Eng. degree in March 1996. His thesis was on the "Flexural Behavior of Precast Segmental Continuous Beams With External Prestressing" under the guidance of Prof. Mutsuyoshi. He is continuing his Doctoral course at Saitama University.

## Welcome New Students

### October 1995

#### Doctoral Program

Mr. Khairy Hassan Abd El Kareem from Egypt, completed his masters degree at Assiut University, Egypt in 1990, and was working as an Assistant Lecturer in the same University. Mr. Hassan is attached to the Structural Materials lab under the guidance of Prof. A. Machida.

Mr. Quan Li from China, completed his masters degree at Tsinghua University, China in 1993, and was working as an assistant researcher in the same university. Mr. Li is attached to the Structural lab under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Y. Okui.

Mr. Mohamed Ali Abdel Rahman from Egypt, completed his master degree at Assiut University, Egypt in 1992, and was working as an Assistant Lecturer in the same University. Mr. Rahman is attached to the Hydrosience and Geotechnical lab under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. K. Watanabe.

Mr. Md. Alauddin from Bangladesh, completed his masters degree at Bangladesh University of Eng. & Technology in 1994, and was working as an Assistant Professor in the same University. Mr. Alauddin is attached to the Structural Mechanics lab under the supervision of Prof. H. Yamaguchi.

Mr. Vu Hung Dinh from Vietnam, is attached to the Hydrosience and Geotechnical lab under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. K. Sato.

#### Master Program

Mr. Md Ahsanul Hakim from Bangladesh, completed his basic degree at University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh in 1984 and was working as a consulting engineer in Team consultants, Bangladesh. Mr. Hakim is attached to the Hydrosience and Geotechnical lab under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. K. Sato.

Ms. Mahjabeen Nisa Zainudeen from Sri Lanka, completed her basic degree at University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka in 1992 and was working as a Lecturer at the same university. Ms. Nisa is attached to the Design and Planning lab under the guidance of Prof. Y. Akatsuka.

Ms. Qi Yao from China, is attached to the Earthquake Engineering Lab under the supervision of Prof. H. Kawakami.

### April 1996

#### Doctoral Program

Mr. Jagath Manjula Manatunge from Sri Lanka, completed his masters degree at Imperial College, England in 1995 and was working as a Lecturer at the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. Mr. Manatunge is attached to the Environmental Engineering lab under the guidance of Assoc. Prof. T. Asaeda.

Mr. Soheil Razavi Darbar from Iran, completed his master degree at Tehran Polytechnique University, Iran in 1990 and was working as a Design Engineer at Mahab Ghodss Consulting Engineers, Iran. Mr. Razavi is attached to the Earthquake Engineering lab under the guidance of Prof. H. Watanabe.

#### Master Program

Ms. Shiromi Chandrika Swarnakanthi Karunaratne from Sri Lanka completed her basic degree at University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka in 1994 and was working as a Design Engineer at Sri-U-Thong Co. Ltd., Sri Lanka. Ms. Shiromi is attached to the Environmental Engineering lab under the guidance of Prof. T. Asaeda.

Ms. Sherin Ahamad from Sri Lanka completed her basic degree at University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka in 1994 and was working as a Teaching Assistant at the same university. Ms. Sherin is attached to the Environmental Engineering lab under the guidance of Assoc. Prof. T. Asaeda.

Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman from Bangladesh, completed his basic degree at B.U.E.T, Bangladesh in 1993 and was working as a Design Engineer at Shaheedullah & Associates, Bangladesh. Mr. Rahman is attached to the Environmental Engineering lab under the guidance of Prof. K. Fujita.

Mr. Maheshwar Narsing K.C. from Nepal, completed his basic degree at R. I. T. Jamshedpur Ranchi University, India in 1987 and was working as an Engineer at Dept. of Irrigation, HMG, Nepal. Mr. Maheshwar is attached to the Structural Mechanics Lab under the guidance of Assoc. Prof. Y. Okui.

Mr. Jaime Yabut Hernandez from Philippines, completed his basic degree at University of Philippines in 1991 and was working as an Instructor at the same university. Mr. Jaime is attached to the Structural Materials lab under the guidance of Assoc. Prof. W. Tanzo.



## New Appointments

The Soil Laboratory has appointed Dr. Kiichi Suzuki as its new faculty member at associate professor level. Dr. Suzuki's research fields are constitutive models and liquefaction analysis. Dr. Suzuki has a twenty years working experience with Kajima Corporation.

Dr. Rajesh Adhikari was appointed by the Structural Laboratory as research associate starting from October 1, 1995. Dr. Rajesh's research interests are structural dynamics and vibration control.

The Planning laboratory has also appointed Mr. Kunihiro Sakamoto as its research associate from April 1. His research interests are traffic simulation and GIS.

## Faculty on Move

Professor Hiroyuki Watanabe has gone to the Thammasat University, Bangkok for a period of one year serving as the JICA expert for the project on "Enhancement of Engineering School at Thammasat University", for which the department of civil engineering of Thammasat University is fully supported by Saitama University.

Dr. Kazuyoshi Iwashita will be spending ten months in University of California at Berkeley, as a visiting research scholar starting from April 1, 1996 to January 31, 1997. He will be conducting research on geotechnical engineering.

Dr. Yoshiyaki Okui will be spending ten months as a visiting research scholar at the Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands; starting from May 1, 1996 to Feb 1997. Dr. Okui will be studying creep phenomena on concrete structures.

## Faculty Upswing

Dr. Hiroshi Mutsuyoshi has been promoted to Full Professor from April 1996. He has also been appointed as the Head of the Foreign Student Office. Professor Mutsuyoshi's major field of specialization is on concrete engineering.

Dr. William Tanzo has been promoted to Associate Professor from December 1995. Dr. Tanzo's major field of specialization is on seismic design of structures.

The prestigious Yoshida Prize for 1996, administered by the JSCE, was jointly awarded to Professor Mutsuyoshi, Mr. Tsuchida, Dr. Songkiat and Professor Machida for their paper entitled "Flexural behaviour and proposal of design equation for flexural strength of externally PC members."

Also awarded with the Excellent Young Presenters Award were Dr. Okui and Dr. Rajesh for the presentation of their respective papers at the 50th annual meeting of JSCE at Matsuyama, 1995.

## New Department Established

A new department, the Department of Environmental Science and Human Engineering, was established in April 1995. This department is currently opened for Master course students only and it is formed by each part of the department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Applied Chemical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Electrical and Electronics Engineering.

The Civil and Environmental Engineering offers six subjects for the students enrolled in the Department of Environmental Science and Human Engineering. These subjects are: Urban Water Management, Water Treatment, Solid Waste Treatment, Aquatic Environments, Urban Environments and River and Estuary Environments.

## Messages from the Foreign Student Office

The FSO has appointed two secretaries, Ms. Naoko Nakasone and Ms. Saito, to look after the matters related to the foreign students. So, the FSO would like all of the alumni and the foreign students of this department to contact the office regarding any information related to the foreign students or for the application forms for the perspective students.

The FSO can be reached through surface mail, phone, fax or through

email. The FSO is also working hard to set up its own home page in the world wide web. The FSO can be contacted at the following address:

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## Editorial Board for this issue

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