

# Saitama University Newsletter

International Graduate Program for Overseas Students  
Civil & Environmental Engineering

Issue No. 7 2002

## Ten Years of Our International Graduate Program

This year our international graduate program on "Environmental Management and Infrastructure Development Engineering" completed ten years of its establishment. During these ten years, the program has gradually expanded and the quality of the program has continuously improved. The number of applicants has gradually increased and so has the number of enrollment. The graphs below (Fig. 1 & Fig. 2) show the number of applicants and the enrollment from 1992 to present. Currently, more than sixty students are studying for their Masters and Doctoral degrees in our

arships from the Japanese Government, the program has been able to get more and more scholarship supports from the ADB, the World Bank, and the Japanese Government, owing to our quality education and growing international reputation. Currently, the program administers about twenty scholarships from these organizations each year. With quality teaching and research, our program has become one of the preferred graduate programs for international students in Japan. We are committed to provide the education comparable to the very best universities in the world

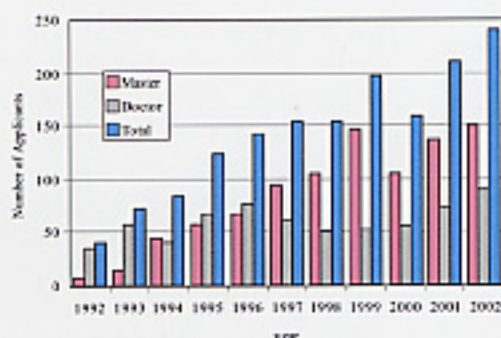


Fig. 1 Number of Applicants

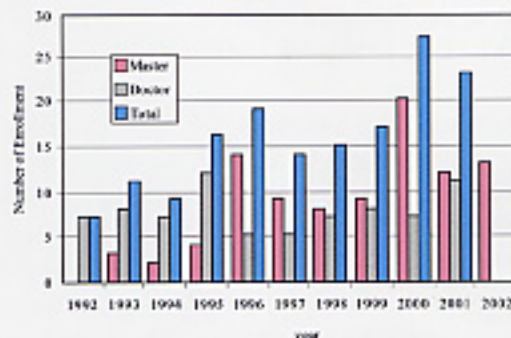


Fig. 2 Number of Enrollment

graduate program. The program has been successful in attracting the very best students from the countries in Asia, Europe, and Africa. Many of our graduates are currently working in different parts of the world, most of them in their home countries and are contributing to building the nation. The program has scholarship supports from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Science and Technology of the Japanese Government, the Asian Development Bank, and the World Bank. Started with just five schol-

and at the same time, we expect the students to work hard. We also hope the students learn not only the specialized courses of their respective study but also the culture and traditions of Japan while enjoying their stay here. We encourage the graduates to return back to their home countries, take part in development works there, and share the knowledge that they gained here with those who have been less fortunate.

### Message from the Head of the Foreign Student Office



Rajesh and his wife Amita



Gehan, Aecchan and Wael

Hello!

I stayed at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor during the month of April and May 2002 as a visiting professor. During my stay there, I visited some of our graduates who are now working in the USA. Dr. Rajesh Adhikary (graduated in 1995) lives with his family in Detroit, Michigan. He is currently working for Ford Motor Company. Dr. Wael Zatar (graduated in 1999) and his wife Dr. Gehan (graduated in 2002) are living in Lexington, Kentucky.

Currently, Dr. Wael is a visiting professor at the University of Kentucky. I am very happy to see many Saitama graduates working actively in different parts of the world. Good luck to all of them.

Hiroshi Mutsuyoshi  
Head of FSO



## Graduation Time Congratulations

### September 2001

Mr. Chakree Bamrungwong from Thailand was awarded his PhD degree in September 2001. He is working for Department of Public Works, Thailand.

Mr. A. F. M. Saiful Amin from Bangladesh was awarded his PhD degree in September 2001. He is working as a faculty member at the Bangladesh University of Eng. and Technology.

Ms. Shriyangi Aluwihare from Nepal was awarded her PhD degree in September 2001. She is working as a senior lecturer at the Open University of Sri Lanka.

Ms. Wita Purwasih from Indonesia was awarded her MEng degree in September 2001. At present, she lives in Ishikawa prefecture, Japan.

Ms. Lokuhewage Asha Udayamali Meegolle from Sri Lanka was awarded her MEng degree in September 2001. She is continuing her Doctoral course at Saitama University.

### March 2002

Mr. Yaonan Sun from China was awarded his PhD degree in March 2002. He is continuing his study as a researcher at Saitama University.

Mr. Le Hung Nam from Vietnam was awarded his DEng degree in March 2002. He is continuing his study as a researcher at Saitama University.

Ms. Gehan Mohamed Elhady Elsayed from Egypt was awarded her PhD degree in March 2002. At present, she lives in Kentucky, USA.

Ms. Kay Thwe Tun Tun from Myanmar was awarded her MEng degree in March 2002. She is currently working as an Assistant Lecturer at Mandalay Technological University.

Ms. Eldina Fatimah from Indonesia was

## Research Profile Series (6) Geosphere Research Institute

Geosphere Research Institute of Saitama University (GRIS) was established on April 1, 2001 by unifying the Hydrosience and Geotechnical Laboratory with the support of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Earth Science Observation Laboratory under the Faculty of Education of Saitama University. GRIS is unique of its kind in the universities of Japan and focuses on education, research & development covering a wide spectrum of Geospherical sciences. Prof. H. Watanabe is the present director of the institute.

The institute has two major research fields — Geosphere disaster prevention research and Geosphere environmental science research. The research activities of the former field covers research related to the earthquake disaster prevention and geological structure. The basic objective here is to clarify the effect of earthquake disaster in various lifelines of the modern cities and to develop earthquake resistant technologies based on the detailed grasp of the problems. Prof. E. Kawakami, Assoc. Prof. H. Kazama and Assoc. Prof. Y. Arakawa lead this group as full time faculties. On the other hand, the research activities of the later group covers research related to the overall geological environment, radioactivity and other hazardous waste disposal. The research objective here is to study and develop restoration and recovery technology of the ground and groundwater contamination and technology for safe underground disposal of hazardous wastes. Hydrogeological characterization for the study of suitability of deep underground space for disposal of such wastes, migration behavior of different kinds of hazardous wastes near the surface and the deep underground, and the groundwater flow pattern and mechanisms are some of the areas of study covered by this group. This group is led by Prof. K. Sato, Prof. K. Watanabe, Assoc. Prof. M. Osada and Guest Prof. T. Yoshinaka.

GRIS' activities also include providing excellent research and education opportunities through their undergraduate and graduate study program, and vigorously promoting international cooperative research. At present, one researcher (post-doctoral) and many graduate (6 doctoral and 13 master students) and undergraduate students are pursuing their research and study in the institute. The institute has established research cooperation with many international educational institutes and research centers. These include the Faculty of Engineering, Thammasat University, Thailand; University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka; Nanjing University, China; Iranian cultural heritage organization, Iran; National Cooperative for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste (NAGRA), Switzerland among others.





awarded her MEng degree in March 2002. She is continuing her Doctoral course at Saitama University.

Mr. Hossain Mohammed Iqbal from Bangladesh was awarded his MEng degree in March 2002. He is continuing his Doctoral course at Saitama University.

Mr. Narayan Prasad Baral from Nepal was awarded his MEng degree in March 2002. He is working for Ministry of Local Development, Nepal.

Mr. Xiaopeng from China was awarded his MEng degree in March 2002. He is working for Shanghai Government as a civil servant.

Ms. Kyi Myint Thwin from Myanmar was awarded her MEng degree in March 2002. She is currently working as an Assistant Lecturer at Yangon Technological University.

Ms. Ira Palupi from Indonesia was awarded her MEng degree in March 2002. She is working in Indonesia.

Mr. Resurreccion Augustus Cooper from the Philippines was awarded his MEng degree in March 2002. He is working at Univ. of the Philippines.

Mr. Dinh Ngoc Hai from Vietnam was awarded his MSci degree in March 2002. He is continuing his Doctoral course at Saitama University.

Mr. Tran Ngoc Anh from Vietnam was awarded his MEng degree in March 2002. He is working as a Lecturer at Hanoi University of Science.

Mr. Nguyen Bao Viet from Vietnam was awarded his MEng degree in March 2002. He is working for Hanoi University of Civil Engineering.

Mr. Anura Dharmakeerthi from Sri Lanka was awarded his MEng degree in March 2002. He is working for Road Development Authority, Sri Lanka.

Mr. Muhammad Ashraf Ishaq from Pakistan was awarded his MEng degree in March 2002. He is working for a consultant firm, Pakistan.

## Welcome New Students

### October 2001



Phung Dang Hien  
Vietnam, Doctor



Ei Chaw Khin  
Myanmar, Doctor



Nguyen Khang Duy  
Vietnam Doctor



Pandey Govinda Raj  
Nepal, Doctor



Win Pa Pa  
Myanmar, Doctor



Subedi Jishnu Kumar  
Nepal, Doctor



Hoque Md. Mozammel  
Bangladesh, Doctor



Areenit Natthapong  
Thailand, Doctor



Jayakody S. Upendra  
Sri Lanka, Master

### April 2002



Eldina Fatimah  
Indonesia, Doctor



Dinh Ngoc Hai  
Vietnam, Doctor



Hossain Mohammed Iqbal  
Bangladesh, Doctor



Lokuhewage M. Asha. U.  
Sri Lanka, Doctor



Aung Banyar  
Myanmar, Master



Vu Dang Hai  
Vietnam, Master



Shrestha Subir Kumar  
Nepal, Master



Munkhtogoo Erkhembayar  
Mongolia, Master



Ghimire J. Prasad  
Nepal, Master



Perez Jeffrey Somintac  
Philippines, Master



Toktoralieva Mira  
Kyrgyzstan, Master



Thant Zin  
Myanmar, Master



Md. Kumruzzaman  
Bangladesh, Master



Trinh Quang Xuan  
Vietnam, Master



Nguyen Huu Trung  
Vietnam, Master



Wanninayake Ajitha  
Sri Lanka, Master



Jayakody Chamani Sadhana  
Sri Lanka, Master



## News

### New Appointments

Prof. Hiroshi Mutsuyoshi was appointed as the Director of the Cooperative Research Center of Saitama University in June 2002.

Mr. Kentaro Yutani was appointed as a research associate in the Environmental and Hydraulic Laboratory in April 2002. His research field is restoration and management of the aquatic environment and ecosystem.

### Sabbatical Leave

Prof. H. Mutsuyoshi stayed at the Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA for two months from the end of March on sabbatical leave.

### Faculty on Move

Prof. Yoichi Kubota has been transferred to the Department of Environmental Science and Human Engineering since April 2002. His research field is historical investigation of urban development and civic design.

Dr. Kiyotaka Fukahori has been transferred to the Department of Environmental Science and Human Engineering since April 2002. His major field is urban planning.

Ms. Ima Fatima, a research associate in the Design and Planning Lab, quit her job in December 2001. She went back to Indonesia.

### Alumni on Move

Dr. Thirugnanasantharan Aravinthan is currently working as a Lecturer at the University of Southern Queensland from April 2002. He graduated from Saitama Univ. in March 1999.

Dr. Wael Zatar is currently working for Kentucky Transportation Center as a Visiting Professor. He continued his research as a Postdoctoral Fellow at Saitama Univ. until September 2001.

### Faculty Promotion

Dr. Norio Tanaka was promoted to Associate Professor in April 2002. His major field of specialization is river engineering and river environmental engineering.

Dr. Takeshi Fujino was promoted to Associate Professor in April 2002. His major field of specialization is urban environmental engineering.

Dr. Kiyotaka Fukahori was promoted to Associate Professor in April 2002. His major field of specialization is urban planning.

## Awards

Prof. Hiroshi Mutsuyoshi has been awarded the PCEA (Prestressed Concrete Engineering Association) Prize for the development of "Externally Prestressed Concrete Bridge with Large Eccentricity" in May 2002.

Prof. Hiroki Yamaguchi was awarded in May 2002 by JSCE with the Tanaka Prize, which is the award for outstanding research publication on bridge engineering, for the paper entitled "Rationalization of Safety Factors for Long-Span Cable-Sup-

ported Bridges Based on Their Ultimate Behavior" co-authored with Dr. K. Nogami (Tokyo Metropolitan Univ.), Prof. M. Nagai (Nagaoka Univ. of Tech.) and Prof. Y. Fujino (Univ. of Tokyo).

Mr. Riaz-ul-Islam, Doctoral student in the Design and Planning Lab, was honored by JSCE with the Excellent Presentation Award for the paper titled "Relationship between Optimal Pavement Design and Developmental Stage of a Country's Economy" co-authored with Prof. Tsunokawa in the Third International Summer Symposium held on August 8, 2001 in Tokyo.

### Message from Alumni

I joined Saitama University in February 1994 as a student to study for my PhD. At this time there were very few students representing foreign countries. We were handicapped as the Japanese medium, so we had to pick up fast to excel and achieve success. Having graduated in April 1997, I returned to my home country, Sri Lanka. Since then I have been working as a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa.

In November 2001, I was offered a Postdoctoral Fellowship from the Japan Society of the Promotion of Science and returned to Saitama University. I consider this a privilege and an opportunity to enhance my knowledge with the connections I develop with the scientists of other countries by interchanging views and ideas on research aspects. For the knowledge and experiences I have gained during my study at Saitama University, I owe a great deal of gratitude to the professors for their excellent guidance and great assistance that was extended to me. I profusely thank them for the great service rendered.

With all best wishes and warmest regards,

Dr. Nimal P.D. Gamage



## Message from the Foreign Student Office

The cherry blossoms were in full bloom on Saitama Univ. campus at the end of March earlier than usual this year due to warm weather. Did the students staying in Japan go to see cherry blossoms with your family and friends? Viewing cherry blossoms is a traditional custom in our society. If you missed the opportunities this time, please make a picnic lunch and go to the nearby park to see the cherry blossoms during your stay in Japan at some time. You will be surely impressed by their beauty.

By the way, the construction of the new civil and environmental engineering building is going to start in August.

Therefore, faculty members of this department have been very busy moving to temporary places.

The new building will be completed by April 2003. Lastly, we hope you will continue to make a large contribution to your country in the near future.

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### Editorial Board for this issue

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