

Preface

Earth reinforcement techniques are used worldwide and offer proven solutions to a wide range of geotechnical engineering problems. The International Symposia on Earth Reinforcement (IS Kyushu) held in the city of Fukuoka, Japan have played a key role in disseminating developments in earth reinforcement starting in 1988 and again in 1992, 1996, and 2001. The important role of this series of symposia in promoting these technologies has been recognized by the strong support offered by the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) and the International Geosynthetic Society (IGS).

While earth reinforcement technologies are well-established, new materials, construction techniques, design and analysis methods continue to be developed. Furthermore, reinforced earth structures are now being used more and more as expedient and economical solutions in response to earthquake, heavy rain, tsunami, and other natural disasters.

Based on the success of previous IS Kyushu symposia and the continued importance of earth reinforcement technologies to geotechnical engineering, it was decided that the *5th International Symposium on Earth Reinforcement* (IS Kyushu'07) will be held on November 14–16, 2007 in Fukuoka, Japan. The theme subtitle of IS Kyushu'07 is “New Horizons in Earth Reinforcement”. The main purpose of the symposium is to provide a forum for the exchange of technical information on current earth reinforcement techniques and design procedures around the world, introduce new reinforcement material, and present new and emerging applications with special emphasis on disaster mitigation and geoenvironmental issues. We encourage the new generation of engineers and researchers to attend this important technical event so that they are part of the future “New Horizons” in earth reinforcement.

A total of 175 abstracts from 32 countries were submitted to the conference; of these, 124 full papers have been accepted for publication in the conference proceedings and for presentation. Three distinguished engineers and researchers from around the world under the guidance of the Scientific Committee carefully reviewed each paper.

We believe that all the participants will benefit greatly from the presentations and discussions that will take place during the symposium. The conference proceedings will serve as a milestone not only for those involved in earth reinforcement technologies but also for the larger geotechnical engineering community.

Jun Otani
Chairperson of IS Kyushu'07