

Opening ceremony

Prof. H. Ochiai
(Chairman of IS Kyushu 2001)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is indeed a great pleasure and honor to declare the opening of the International Symposium on Earth Reinforcement, IS Kyushu 2001.

Earth reinforcing techniques are increasingly becoming a useful, powerful and economical solution to various problems encountered in geotechnical engineering practice. Expansion of the experiences and knowledge in this area has succeeded in developing new techniques and their applications to geotechnical engineering problems. In order to discuss the latest experiences and knowledge, and with the purpose of spreading them all over the world for further development, the series of IS Kyushu Conferences on the subject of earth reinforcement have been held here in Fukuoka, every four years since 1988. The symposia were titled "Theory and Practice of Earth Reinforcement" for the first one in 1988, "Earth Reinforcement Practice" for the second one in 1992 and "Earth Reinforcement" for the third one in 1996. As you know, they have provided successful contributions towards the development of the earth reinforcement practice. This fourth symposium, entitled "Landmarks in Earth Reinforcement", is a continuation of the series of IS Kyushu Conferences, and also aims at being one of the landmarks in the progress of the modern earth reinforcement practice. With this objective, one special lecture and five keynote lectures will be delivered by distinguished scholars, in addition to the presentations of the papers accepted for the symposium in the technical sessions. The special session on "Soil Nailing" and the summary discussion session on "Design Procedure" will be also organized to summarize the results of fundamental and practical aspects on these areas developed in the recent years. In the activities of the technical committees of the International

Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, the TC-9 covers the professional area on the subjects of Geosynthetics and Earth Reinforcement, and it had been presided over by me as a chairman and Professor Jun Otani as a Secretary during the period of 1997 to 2001. The activities of TC-9 for the period will be also reported in this symposium, and the outcome report will be included in Volume 2 of the Proceedings. It is our hope that this symposium will stand out as one of the notable landmarks in the progress of the modern earth reinforcement practice.

This symposium is held under the joint-auspices of the Japanese Geotechnical Society and the TC-9 of ISSMGE, and is supported by the International Geosynthetics Society and the Japan Society of Civil Engineers. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to these societies for their encouragement and support to the symposium.

Finally, there are 440 participants here attending this symposium, including about 100 overseas participants from 32 countries, nevertheless the hateful attacks of terrorists. On behalf of the symposium committee, I would like to extend a hearty welcome to all of you.

Thank you.

Prof. F. Tatsuoka
(Vice-president of JGS/ISSMGE)

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

First, as the Vice President of the Japanese Geotechnical Society (JGS), I would like to first point out that this present IS Kyushu Earth Reinforcement was the first one of a series of international symposia sponsored by the JGS.

I would like to say that it was Prof. Ochiai who proposed to hold international symposia in this form. I am really sure with this point because I was the secretary of the JGS that time and responsible for organizing this type of international symposia

sponsored by the JGS, and so I worked with him. And to have held the first IS Kyushu under the leadership of Prof. Ochiai was a real great contribution to the internalization of the activities of the JGS.

Nest, as the Vice President Asia of International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE), I would like to point out that the success of the first IS Kyushu was also a great contribution to the enhancement of the activities of the ISSMGE. In fact, the IS Kyushu on Earth Reinforcement this year 2001 is sponsored by the technical committee (TC) No. 9 on Earth reinforcement of the ISSMGE, which is chaired by Professor. Ochiai. I believe that the activities of technical committees are one of the essential components of the activities of the ISSMGE and I think this is becoming more and more important.

The last address is as the chairman of the Japan Chapter of the International Geosynthetic Society (IGS). The chapter was founded in 1983, long time ago by Professor Fukuoka. We have a large size of activities with a wide variety of active programs every year. We are going to have the Seventh International Conference on Geosynthetics September 2002 the next year in Nice, France. So, the council meeting of the IGS that was held yesterday decided to hold the eighth International Conference on Geosynthetics in 2006, five years later, in Tokyo. This is the second time in Asia following the Singapore 1994 and the first time in Japan. The 8th International Conference on Geosynthetics will be sponsored by the ISSMGE, the JGS and the Japanese Society for Civil Engineers. The detailed schedule of the conference has not been decided yet. Perhaps it will be in September somewhere in Tokyo. There are many suggestions from many persons on this issue, but we have not decided yet. Our Japan chapter of the IGS will soon establish the local organizing committee and will start an investigation to find the best place and the best time of the year for the conference. We need your strong support and corporation for the success of first the 7th, International Conference of Geosynthetics 2002 Niece and then the 8th International conference of Geosynthetics 2006 Tokyo.

Thank you very much.