

Preface

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 IS Kyushu conference series on the subject of earth reinforcement have been held in Fukuoka, Japan, 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. 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 are arranged to deliver by internationally distinguished scholars, in addition to the presentations of the papers accepted for the symposium. A total of 212 abstracts from 32 countries were submitted for this symposium. The Scientific Committee carefully reviewed both the abstracts and full-length papers, and finally selected 137 papers for presentation during the symposium, some in technical sessions for oral presentations, and the rests in poster sessions. They were included in Volume 1 of the proceedings.

The special session on "Soil Nailing" and the summary discussion session on "Design Procedure" have also been organized to summarize the results of fundamental and practical aspects on these areas developed in the recent years. These valuable reports will be included in Volume 2 of the proceedings to be published after the symposium.

In the activities of the technical committees (TC) of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE), the TC-9 covers the professional area on the subjects of geosynthetics and its applications to geotechnical engineering, and it had been called "Geotextiles and Geosynthetics" until 1997. But it was renamed as "Geosynthetics and Earth Reinforcement" in order to match the activities that are expected to develop in the future. This was due to the great successes of the previous IS Kyushu conferences. The report of TC-9 activities during the period of 1997-2001 will be included in Volume 2 of the proceedings.

This symposium is being held under the joint-auspices of the Japanese Geotechnical Society (JGS) and the TC-9 of ISSMGE, and is being supported by the International Geosynthetics Society (IGS) and the Japan Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE). We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the members of the International Advisory Group for their encouragement and support to the symposium.

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.

Hidetoshi Ochiai
Chairman of IS Kyushu 2001

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