

Preface

Earth reinforcement techniques are increasingly becoming a useful, powerful and economical solutions 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.

Technical Committees (TCs) have been playing a key role in fulfilling the goal of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE), and they provide the stages for discussion and exchange of views among the members of the society. The TC9 has covered the professional area on the subjects of Geosynthetics and the application to geotechnical engineering practice, and it had been called "Geotextiles and Geosynthetics" until 1997. But the title of the committee was changed to "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 IS Kyushu Conferences on the subject of earth reinforcement which have been held under the auspices of the Japanese Geotechnical Society (JGS) in Fukuoka, Japan, every four years since 1988. For this reason, JGS decided to support the activities of TC9 as a Host Member Society and established a supporting committee for the TC9 in the framework of JGS.

A well selected international group of experts became appointed as responsible members of TC9 based on the candidates recommended by ISSMGE member societies, presided from 1997 to 2001 by Prof. H.Ochiai as Chairman and Prof. J.Otani as Secretary. The subcommittees (SCs) have been set up in the TC9 in order to enhance the activities, in which the themes of each subcommittee are SC-1: "Case Histories and Data Base", SC-2: "Long Term Performance and Extreme Loading", SC-3: "Design and Parameter Determination", SC-4: "Education", and SC-5: "New Approach and Applications". All the contributions and report have been done based on the activities by those subcommittees and the Japanese supporting committee.

This publication is the final report of TC9 activities for the period of 1997- 2001. This report includes both activities of the TC9 subcommittees and the Japanese supporting committee, the 2-pages technical report by all the individual members of TC9, and the previous reports which were published at any of TC9 meetings.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all members of the TC9 and the Japanese supporting committee for their effort and contribution to the TC9 activities and the publication of this valuable final report. I also desire to record my appreciation of the financial support given to the publication of this report by JGS.

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