

Closing ceremony

Prof. C.J.F.P. Jones
(President of the International Geosynthetic Society)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ladies and Gentlemen.

This is the third conference on Reinforced Soil that has been held in Kyushu. The first in 1988 attracted delegates from 21 countries. In 1992, 25 countries were represented, and at this conference there have been delegates from 33 countries and all the continents. And it is appropriate to say that IS Kyushu series of reinforced soil symposiums are now in due represent the major conference on the subject of earth reinforcement.

Since the last conference in 1992 we have had two major earthquakes, one in California and one in Japan. Although we regret the loss of life and great damage that occurred in these events, these earthquakes provide a dramatic demonstration of the benefits and safety of reinforced soil structures. In addition, we have seen the publication, since 1992, of a number of national design codes and specifications. The result of this, the earthquakes and the codes, is that there has been a marked growth in confidence in reinforced soil structures since the last conference in 1992 and this is reflected in this symposium.

The papers at the symposium do reflect a significant contribution to knowledge and a great deal of information of the highest quality has been presented. It is also apparent that we are no longer exploring the basics of the technology but are interested in the wider aspects of reinforced soil. Much attention is now being given to difficult soils and the solution of difficult technical problems using earth reinforcement. What is apparent is that we still have a lot of research to do.

In the past, the practitioners and manufacturers associated with reinforced soil led the technology, and the academic community were behind the practitioners in their understanding. It may be, when you look at the papers at the conference, that the academic community has caught up and that our

theoretical understanding may in future lead practice. In other words, the cross-over point may have occurred at this conference. But that said, we do not fully understand the mechanisms of the system in particular when we start talking about difficult soils, and we have still a lot to learn. The subject, if anything, is growing.

It would be remiss of me not to mention geosynthetic materials. With problem soils, and it will appear that we are going towards the use of reinforced soil in problem soils, it seems that geosynthetic reinforcement and drainage products are the primary elements that we are using and propose to use to effect the necessary improvements and stabilities. It is clear that the testing and properties of these materials is still a subject of great interest and debate. But the information base is clearly growing, a lot of information has been given here and it is very clear that a lot of people know a great deal about these materials now. However, we still don't have and still need agreed methods of testing of these products and there is evidence, though, that this is been provided.

Now, the format of this conference has been a model of how to organize an international symposium. A significant proportion of the conference time has been devoted to structured discussions. This is very refreshing and it also has been very valuable and I believe the high point of this symposium. We have to recognize that to produce a structured discussion an awful lot of work is done by quite a number of people, and I should think we should acknowledge, give our thanks to all those who have worked at this aspect of the symposium.

Conferences have a social side and this symposium is no exception. Much of the benefits of coming to a conference or symposium is to meet colleagues from other countries and to discuss, perhaps not in the conference hall but outside, interests and also to make friends and acquaintances and this is to a certain extent how we grow and how our understanding grows. Perhaps, it is

outside the conference hall where the main work is done. IS Kyushu provides us with a very nice venue to do this.

We have had and have a large number of overseas delegates at the conference and on their behalf I should like to thank our Japanese hosts for their hospitality. Kyushu represents, to many visitors to Japan, what we perceive to be the ideal Japan. Everyone is very helpful, everyone is very cheerful, everyone is very friendly, everything works, it's unusual, it doesn't happen in our country anyway. The food is strange and sometimes exotic, the drink sometimes rather powerful, and then we even have Sumo. Your hospitality is overwhelming, and I am surprised so many people actually managed to get here at 8:30 every morning. I found it quite difficult.

Finally, on behalf of all of the delegates I should like to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Professor Ochiai and his organizing committee for providing us with such an enjoyable conference.

Thank you very much indeed.

Prof. Shigenori Hayashi
(Vice Chairman of IS Kyushu '96)

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to professor Colin Jones for his excellent Concluding Remarks of the Symposium.

As professor Jones mentioned at his concluding remarks that we have held three times Conference on Earth Reinforcement, IS Kyushu '88, '92 and this Symposium, IS Kyushu '96, so we have held, in this time, two Summary Discussion Sessions, on Testing Methods and Design Methods, and the Special Reports on two earthquakes.

We can share the developments and the state of the arts on earth reinforcement technics, and it make sure that the earth reinforcement is one of the most useful technics in geotechnical field, especially with seismic and environmental concerns.

However, I think that there are still so many problems for research and new development of construction methods, for example, how to evaluate the environmental effects, the deformation, the ductility and durability of the earth reinforcement structures, and how to decide the many partial safety factors, and so on.

In closing this International symposium on Earth Reinforcement, IS Kyushu '96, I wish to express, on behalf of all the members of our Organizing Committee, our sincere gratitude to the Special Lecturer, Special Reporters, Keynote Lecturers, Discussion Leaders, Panelists, each Session Chairmen and Cochairmen, Oral and Poster Presenters, and all of you, who have so actively

participated in this Symposium to make it such a success.

Now I have the duty and the honor to declare this International Symposium on Earth Reinforcement, IS Kyushu '96, officially closed. And also I would like to declare the new challenges and new development on Earth Reinforcement Techniques started.

Thank you, and I wish you all a safe trip home.
Thank you!