

Opening ceremony

Prof. Hidetoshi Ochiai
(Chairman of IS Kyushu '96)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ladies and Gentlemen. It is indeed a great pleasure and honour to declare the opening of the International Symposium on Earth Reinforcement, IS Kyushu '96.

About 30 years have passed successfully since the modern concept of earth reinforcement was proposed by Henry Vidal in France in the middle of the 1960s. Expansion of experiences and knowledge in earth reinforcement practice has succeeded in developing new techniques and their applications to geotechnical engineering problems.

As a result of that, over the past decade, the earth reinforcing techniques have become a useful, powerful and economical solution to many problems in geotechnical and geoenvironmental engineering practice. So, it is a great advantage to us to get together and talk about our experiences and our knowledge and to share our wisdom in this field. Of course, this wisdom first came to us from our founding fathers like Henry Vidal.

Professor Toyotoshi Yamanouchi, who I am sure most of you here recognize him as one of the founding fathers, first proposed and organized the international symposium on Earth Reinforcement, here in Fukuoka in 1988, which was attended by delegates from 24 different countries. As you know, this first symposium provided successful contributions for the development of earth reinforcement.

The second one was held in 1992 with an attendance of about 400 participants, and was of great help for further promotion of earth reinforcement practice. These symposia are now known as "IS Kyushu".

This third symposium is a continuation and expansion of the two previous symposia. In this symposium, one special and three keynote lectures will be delivered by distinguished scholars in the field. The special reports on the performance of

reinforced soil structures under the two great earthquakes, The Northridge Earthquake in 1994 and The Great Hanshin Earthquake in 1995, will also be presented. The summary discussion sessions on "Testing methods" and "Design methods" are organized to summarize the result of research activities developed in the last three decades in these areas. A total of 151 papers submitted from 30 different countries will be presented in technical and poster sessions during the symposium.

It is our hope that this symposium will lead to further understanding of current earth reinforcement practice and provide a base for further research.

The symposium is held under the auspices of the Japanese Geotechnical Society, 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 130 overseas participants. On behalf of the symposium committee, I would like to extend a hearty welcome to all of you.

Thank you.

Prof. Kenji Ishihara
(President of the Japanese Geotechnical Society)

Good morning, distinguished guests, my dear colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great pleasure to welcome all of you, from abroad as well as from within Japan, here to Fukuoka, and to have an opportunity to exchange views and discuss issues of earth reinforcement which has now become a subject of prime importance in our community.

It is my understanding that, while it is evolving rapidly, the discipline of earth reinforcement is still in a chaotic stage and a number of new ideas and

techniques are being proposed and discussed. I hope some new perspectives are addressed and some initiatives to synthesize contents are developed in the course of sessions during this conference.

Generally speaking, the development of a discipline takes place stepwise from one conference to another. Thus, I wish this conference will place an important milestone in the further development of earth-reinforcing technology.

As you might know, Japanese Geotechnical Society has been hosting a series of International Symposia called IS's on specific subjects of current interest and of prime importance. One or two such symposia are held each year. Last week, we held IS Osaka, that is, 2nd International Congress on Environmental Geotechnology. Next year in 1997, Japanese National Society is going to host the International Symposium on Deformation and Progressive Failure in Geomechanics which will be held in Nagoya in October. I hope many of you will participate in it and find it useful and rewarding.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to members of Organizing Committee, and Chairman Professor Ochiai for their enormous efforts in bringing this conference to such a great event. I also wish all of you enjoy the conference and related events such as Poster sessions, Technical session, Exhibition and Sightseeing tours.

Thank you.

Prof. Iichiro Kono
(Representative of Japan Society of Civil Engineers)

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. I am Kono, Professor of Civil Engineering of Okayama University. I am currently Division head of Investigation and Research in the Japan Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE).

Chairman of IS Kyushu, Professor Ochiai, invited me to attend this opening ceremony of International Symposium Kyushu '96. And JSCE President, Dr. Matsuo asked me to send warm and heartfelt welcome greetings to all the participations of the symposium at the occasion.

We, civil engineers, have the strong interest in the recent developments of geotechnical engineering and earth reinforcement. I know that many and various, theoretical and experimental reports will be presented in this symposium. I sincerely hope that the participants would make fruitful discussion, broadly and frankly. And you would make information exchange of knowledge of earth reinforcement.

I have read in a book that the origin of word "symposium" is Greek language. In the old age of Greece, philosophers discussed exhaustively various problems, theoretical and practical, drinking wine. That drinking-together discussion meeting was

"symposium" in those days.

Before that the theory-orientated philosophers discussed the engineering problems impractically for a long time, but they could not get good solutions, they could not get much progress, because they did not have enough experimental evidences for practical improvement. They discussed fruitlessly problems only in the theoretical field.

On the other hand, the skill-orientated technicians received their training from their old masters only by following and copying their predecessor's examples without theoretical explanations. They could not get much progress by apprenticeship.

Thus, they needed the "symposium" in the original meaning; meeting together of theoretical philosophers and practical technicians, meeting together of desk-work planners and construction-site workmen. All of these people met together and exchanged their information about their own fields with each other, and discuss frankly and freely common problems. The symposium was needed for both philosophers and technicians to give and take knowledge to and from each other.

This symposium, Kyushu '96, is the place for both types of practitioners of earth reinforcement to study each other's problems, understand each others' situations.

I believe that the International Symposium Kyushu '96 is timely academic meeting, which will offer a lot of hints to solve the geotechnical problems, earth reinforcement. I would like to encourage all of the participants to have enthusiastic and frank discussion, and exchange information.

I hope finally that the study of earth reinforcement will make great advance in Kyushu, Japan and internationally in the world. I also hope again that this international symposium will come to happy end in great success.

Thank you for your kind attention.