



Japan Society of Civil Engineers
International Activities

Newsletter

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JSCE, JGS and CPIJ Presidential Joint Statement on the Tohoku Pacific Offshore Earthquake: Gear up to face the challenge and move forward for a better future.

Prof. Kenji SAKATA, Prof. Osamu KUSAKABE and Dr. Takayuki KISHII

It was one fine spring day on March 11. In the afternoon, violent tremors and tsunami hit the Tohoku region, where reminds every body of a good old Japan, and shook as far away as Kanto region. The earthquake destroyed many coastal cities and villages, and the tsunami washed away the residents, their families and homes. Thousands of people were killed and many more lost their loved ones. All of Japan and around the world shared their profound grief and sorrow, and prayed for them and for all the victims of this disaster.

On behalf of the JSCE, JGS and CPIJ members, we would like to offer our sincere prayers to those who have lost their lives and to extend our heartfelt sympathies and condolences to those who have been affected by the earthquake and tsunami.

Also we send our utmost respect and support to those who are suffering but firmly standing up and moving forward, to those who are making every effort to help the victims and survivors, and to those who are risking their lives and working to fix the radiation leak inside the nuclear power plant. We, civil engineering and land planning professionals, will share the heavy burdens that are weighing on their shoulders and work together with them to ride out this difficult time.

The unprecedented scale of the earthquake and tsunami struck the country were far beyond our anticipations; they have brought widespread devastation to the country, wiped out many coastal villages and towns, and caused serious problems in the Fukushima nuclear power plant which has triggered serial accidents. When the country is in the critical situation, we have many things that we can do as a professionals group. First, we should review the investigations and assessments we have ever done and re-evaluate the relevance of the disaster mitigation measures we have developed so that we would establish more effective design codes and standards for seismic hazard mitigation.

Second, we should draw and propose feasible and viable plans for the rebuilding of the devastated areas which is the most urgent priority, for the construction of safe and sustainable communities, and for the establishment of stronger social systems to effectively respond to natural disasters and mitigate their impact. These proposals we believe will be enable the country to prepare for future large-scale earthquakes such us Tokai, Tonankai and Nankai. (Continue to next page)

*JGS: Japanese Geotechnical Society, CPIJ: City Planning Institute of Japan

The recent earthquake that caused a huge tsunami is the largest earthquake that the country has ever experienced. Nobody has imagined that the earthquake of such a great magnitude could occur. We as the professionals group however must never say that to excuse our failure to predict this disaster. We have to remind ourselves that as our predecessors did, we should regard the nature with awe and respect, and that it is essential to design the combination of soft and hard measures for disaster risk management. At the same time, we have to deal with another challenge: we have to improve the managements of electricity supply systems and transportation-production- distribution systems. We must rebuild the destroyed communities to strongly withstand future natural hazards which the people want more than anything.

More than ten days have passed since then. There are some signs that recovery has begun, and we know that there is a long, hard way to the reconstruction of the destroyed areas. There is no challenge we can't overcome. We will share with the affected people their grief and hardships and work with them to overcome the difficulty in front of us. We, engineering and planning professionals groups and societies, brining our years of experience and expertise, have geared up to tackle it. We will find a ray of light which will brighten the future.

(as of March 23, 2011)

how to strengthen seismic preparedness, response planning and disaster measures in order to minimize the risks of predicted future large-scale earthquakes such as Shutoken-Chokka, Tokai, Tonankai and Nankai.

2. Organization

Refer to Fig-1: Organization chart for Special Committee on 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake.

3. Missions

- 1) Perform comprehensive earthquake/tsunami disaster assessments and analyze the results, and also review conventional earthquake and tsunami disaster mitigation plans and measures.
- 2) Make technical advice and suggestions on disaster emergency responses, recovery and reconstruction plans, strategies, policies for affected areas
- 3) Consider and develop future large-scale disaster and tsunami disaster mitigation measures
- 4) Strengthen communication and collaboration with academic and professional organizations and others.

(as of June 27, 2011)

Special Committee on 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake

1. Objectives

M9.0 earthquake followed by tsunami hit the Tohoku area at 14:46, March 11, 2011. This unprecedentedly huge earthquake and tsunami caused tremendous damages across the Tohoku and Kanto areas. Shortly afterwards, JSCE set up a committee to respond this disaster, with the aims of raising civil engineers' awareness of future natural disaster risks, collecting and sharing their skills, knowledge, wisdom and experiences, and strengthening cooperation and collaboration with relevant organizations and institutions. This committee was formed as Special Committee on 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake under the leadership of the JSCE president. Also Taskforce under the Special Committee was created for the quick and easy start and smooth operation of that committee. The lessons we have learned from the earthquake/ tsunami disaster will provide us with valuable insights on

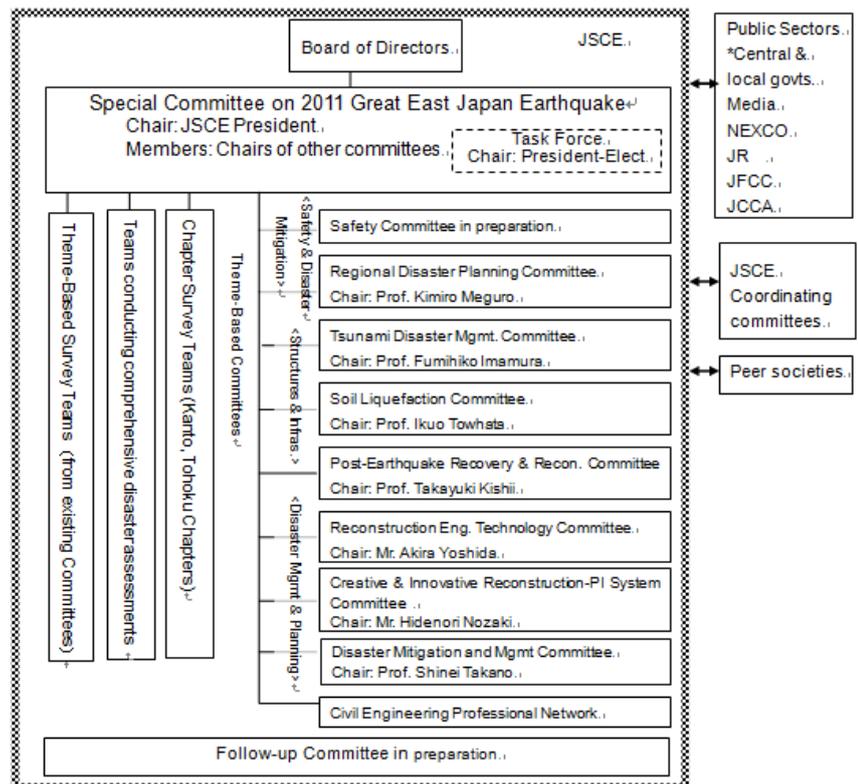


Fig-1: Organization chart for Special Committee on 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake

Also available on web: <http://www.jsce-int.org/>

JSCE/Thailand Section – JCSE Joint Seminar

The JSCE concrete committee has held joint seminars with several Civil Engineers' Societies foreign countries, with which JSCE has an agreement for collaboration. In the past, the joint seminars with CICHE (Taiwan) and MACE (Mongolia) at 2005, VIFCEA (Vietnam) at 2006, KSCE (Korea) at 2007, SVR(Sweden) at 2008, TCG(Greece) at 2009, and TCCE/ JSCE Turkey Section(Turkey) at 2010 were held in Asia and Europe and the strong collaboration with partner societies has established.

In this year, the JSCE/Thailand Section - JSCE Joint Seminar was held on 17th August 2011 at Tarathep hall of Chaophya Park Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. Thailand Concrete Association(TCA) and ACI Thailand Chapter supported the seminar.

This year changed the style. The joint seminars in the past had exchanged each society's information about recent research topics and design code. However, the seminar focused to deliver the Japanese information to Thailand Engineers. On 11th March, Great East Japan Earthquake hit and many concrete structures were damage by earthquake ground motion and Tsunami. The information is desired by many civil engineers in the world. Therefore, JSCE delivered information on the recent earthquake and tsunami disasters in Tohoku to Thailand Engineers using this chance.

The symposium began with the opening speech by Prof. Dr. Somnuk Tangtermsirikul who is a professor of Thammasat University and President of Thailand Concrete Association. Then, 5 topics were presented as follows from JSCE. More than 70 participants attended the seminar and actively engaged in discussions.

The seminar was supported by the International Scientific Exchange Fund, JSCE.



Opening Speech by Prof. Somnuk

The topics are followings:

1. Characteristics of Tsunami and Damages caused by Tsunami

*Norimi MIZUTANI
(Professor of Nagoya University)*

2. Experimental Study for Estimating Tsunami Forces Acting on Bridge Girders

*Kenji KOSA
(Professor of Kyushu Institute of Technology)*

3. Damage of Concrete Structures Due to Earthquake –from Hanshin-Awaji(1995) to East Japan Earthquake(2011) -

*Hiroshi MUTSUYOSHI
(Professor of Saitama University)*

4. Preventive and Repair Methods for RC Structures Due to Resist Earthquake

*Hikaru NAKAMURA
(Professor of Nagoya University)*

5. Current JSCE Design Standard for RC Structures to Resist Seismic Load

*Kyuichi MARUYAMA
(Professor of Nagaoka University of Technology)*



Question from floor and seminar room



Key members in the seminar

*By Hikaru NAKAMURA, Nagoya Univ.
Concrete Committee, JSCE*

Information

One Year after 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake - International Symposium on Engineering Lessons Learned from the Giant Earthquake -



1. General Information

Date: March 3-4, 2012

Venue: Kenchiku Kaikan (AIJ Building), Tamachi, Tokyo, Japan

2. Call for Paper

1) Paper Formats

*Please download from official site or JSCE Website.

2) Important Dates

November 15, 2011: Deadline for submission of abstracts

November 30, 2011: Notification of acceptance

February 1, 2012: Deadline of submission of full manuscript

3. Registration Fee

300 USD (Students: 120 USD)

4. Technical site visit

Date: March 1-2, 2011

Registration Fee: 600 USD

5. Contact

Abstracts as well as inquiries & questions should be directed to
eqsymp@event.jaee.gr.jp

***Information will be informed JSCE Website.**

Send your comments and suggestions to:

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