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N I L I M

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News Letter

■ Message from the Director-General

In August 2005, I took over from Mr. Hamaguchi as Director-General.



This year is when the Basic Science and Technology Plans are revised, and the Council for Science and Technology Policy is now discussing the revisions. The Council decided its basic policy to be the development of "scientific technologies for disseminating results to people and technologies supported by people". The National Institute for Land and Infrastructure Management is a research institute of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport that also engages in field studies. Thus, NILIM will continue to conduct studies jointly with organizations in the field to assist them and be of benefit to the public.

In October, the 14th Conference on Public Works Research and Development in Asia was held. Active discussions were made on risk management and mitigation for flood and sediment related disasters,

and were beneficial to all participants. We all recognized that individual and mutual support are vital to mitigate damage and that measures to enhance such "community power" are the key to achieving the goal. Society itself will be a subject of studies. As the Council for Science and Technology Policy mentioned, humanities and social sciences will play an important role, and comprehensive studies are needed. This may become a major topic in the 21st century as civilization progresses.

NILIM will continue to be a center of studies in the field of infrastructure. We welcome your opinions and suggestions on related matters.

MOCHIZUKI Tsuneyoshi, Director-General, NILIM

■ Proposals by the Council for Engineering Policy on Land, Infrastructure and Transport

Planning Division

In April 2005, the Council for Engineering Policy on Land, Infrastructure and Transport, which was established by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, announced proposals for drawing up the Third Basic Science and Technology Plans, which is entitled "Toward the Third Basic Science and Technology Plans - Scientific and technological policies for supporting life -". Keeping pace with the progress of the Plans, the National Institute for Land and Infrastructure Management and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport are investigating the directions and contents of technologies to be developed by the Ministry in the next five years and concrete policies to achieve "social technologies".

The Council for Science and Technology Policy studies and discusses policies on the distribution of funds and people, important items related to the promotion of science and technology and evaluation of nationally important research and development, and offers opinions to the Prime Minister. The Council supports the Prime Minister and the Cabinet by actively promoting national strategies on science

and technology, and draws up basic science and technology plans every five years.

The Council has given priority to information communication, nanotechnology, and other advanced studies and technologies, which have suffered from insufficient dissemination of science and technology to the public.

The Council for Engineering Policy on Land, Infrastructure and Transport decided that technologies for disseminating scientific results concerning the lives of people will also be important goals for technology development, and stated that:

"Technologies for combining, integrating, and advancing diverse element technologies, and technologies that need to be improved by repeated field trials are typical "social technologies" in the areas of land, infrastructure and transport. The Council strongly proposes that research and development should aim not only to "create knowledge" by studying advanced science and technology but also to fuse and deploy the knowledge using social technologies, such as comprehensive systems of society and national land."

■ The 14th Conference on Public Works Research and Development in Asia

International Research Division

The 14th Conference on Public Works Research and Development in Asia was held in Tsukuba, Tokyo and Sendai from Monday October 17 2005 to Friday October 28 2005.

The conference participants were executive officers and engineers responsible for infrastructure management of governmental administration and research organizations in 8 (eight) countries: Cambodia, India, Korea, Laos, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Japan. The conference aims to exchange views and opinions on such common subjects in Asia as the environment, natural disasters and infrastructure development and furthermore to establish research networks among the participants' countries by building a common understanding of the subjects.

The theme of the 14th conference was "Risk Management and Mitigation for Flood and Sediment Related Disasters." Seven participants including Mr. Mochizuki, NILIM Director-General (Korea attended it in Sendai), presented their reports on case studies in their own countries, followed by discussions, in the Session on Subjects of Common Interest on October 19. (See Photo 1) They also attended the Sessions on Specific Subjects such as Mitigation Meas-

ures and Risk Management against Flood and Coastal Disaster, Risk Management and Mitigation for Sediment-related Disasters, and Flood Forecasting and Warning on October 20 and 21.

As a highlight of the conference, the 14th International Symposium on Land Development and Civil Engineering in Asia was held in Sendai city in Miyagi prefecture in conjunction with the Tohoku Regional Bureau on October 27, 2005. (See Photo 2) The symposium subject was "Flood, Sediment and Tsunami Related Disasters in Asia." Mr. Tanahashi, Deputy Director-General for Engineering Affairs,



Photo 1 Tsukuba Session

MLIT Policy Bureau for Mr. Seiji, MLIT Vice-Minister for Engineering Affairs, gave a special address at the conference.

Dr. Imamura, Professor of Tohoku University, gave the keynote speech on Global Disaster - Lessons from the 2004 Sumatra Earthquake and Indian Ocean Tsunami. Mr. Mochizuki, NILIM Director-General, Mr. Shinohara, Director of River Department, MLIT Tohoku Regional Bureau, and Dr. Kim, Research Fellow of the Korea Institute of Construction Technology, presented their case studies. As additional information, Mr. Terakawa of PWRI introduced the setting up of the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management under the auspices of UNESCO.

In the final program of the symposium, a panel discussion was held on flood, sediment and tsunami related disasters in Asia chaired by Dr. Tsunaki, NILIM Director, and participants from Cambodia, India, Laos, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam in particular reported on the status of their countries and their views on the subject. Almost 80 people who were involved in public works in the Tohoku region attended the symposium.

The conference, through the discussions, site visits and the symposium, concluded with the following agreements:

■ French-Japanese Workshop on ITS

On September 22 (Thursday) and 23 (Friday), 2005, the 4th French-Japanese Workshop on ITS was held in Saint Briec, France, the first workshop of which was held in September 2002.

From Japan, Mr. Kikukawa, director of The National Expressway Division of The Road Bureau at the time, Mr. Yamane, Counselor of The Minister's Secretariat (in charge of international construction), Mr. Asano, assistant director of the ITS Policy and Program Office,



Photo 1 Welcome speech by Mr. Lebereton, the governor of Cotes d'Armor



Photo 2 Symposium Participants

- The participants recognize the role and need for further improvement in "Risk Management and Mitigation for Flood and Sediment Related Disasters" as well as the importance in conducting research to facilitate them and in sharing information on forecasting data and natural disasters.

- The participants recognize that each country should learn from the insights and experiences of countries in Asia, to enhance and support the infrastructure development and non-structural measures.

- The participants recognize the need to cooperate with each other and continue the conference in the future.

All the participants agreed on the need to continue the conference and to set up a network in future among the participants' countries.

Research Center for Advanced Information Technology

and Mr. Yamada, Director of The Research Center for Advanced Information Technology, etc., attended the workshop. Members from France included Mr. Panhaleus (Directeur Adjoint de la Direction de la Sécurité et de la Circulation Routières de la Ministère de l'Équipement des Transports de l'Aménagement du Territoire du Tourisme et de la Mer), Mr. Janin (Directeur, Mission Transports Intelligents), and Mr. Lebereton (Président du Conseil Général des Côtes d'Armor).



Photo 2 Road traffic information center of Rennes

Saint Brieuc, the capital of the Province of Côtes d'Armor, has a population of about 50,000, and forms an urban area of about 110,000 inhabitants including its suburbs. Governor Leberton, who is actively promoting ITS, invited the workshop.

On September 22, the members visited Vehipole, which is a research institute on traffic accidents in Cotes d'Armor, the road traffic information center of Rennes (Centre Régional d'Information et de Coordination Routieres de l'Ouest), and École Nationale Supérieure de Télécommunications de Bretagne.

On September 23, presentations and active discussions were made in three sessions: 1) ITS architecture, 2) Speed control, and 3) Local authorities and ITS. Three presentations were given by Japanese participants, which were entitled "ITS Enters the Second Stage - Smart Mobility for All", "SUICA - Actual Situation and Future Development" and "Safety Driving Support System by Road-Vehicle Cooperation".

Interesting studies and papers were demonstrated and presented. Among them, the following particularly attracted interest.

Traffic monitoring system: NEAVIA Technologies developed a system for monitoring traffic conditions and incidents. Cameras are installed on roadside poles to transmit images, which are used to monitor traffic conditions and detect incidents. Incidents are detected by sensing sounds specific to incidents using acoustic sensors. The information is transmitted to the adjacent pole successively by wireless. The power source is solar batteries. The installation expenses are likely to be not so high, and should be effective for roads in rural areas.

Crackdown on speeding: France started to implement an automated crackdown system using speed radars toward the end of 2003. The system is characterized by the fully automated process of detecting speeding and collecting fines. The French law was revised in June 2003, abolishing the requirement for a policeman to confirm the speeding and thus the automated crackdown on speeding has been realized. About 860 radars have been installed (of which 70% are fixed and 30% are mobile), and their locations are announced officially on the Internet. Drivers must deposit the equivalent amount of money to the fine (135 Euro up to 40 km/h speeding) even if they disagree. If the objection is sustained, the deposit will be returned.

Speed control: Speed regulations are imposed on Highway A7, which is congested on holidays, aiming to make the traffic flow uniform. At 6 points on the 90-km long highway stretch, recommended speeds are informed to drivers through sign boards and FM radio broadcasting, and the index number of violating vehicles are displayed at two points. This system increased the peak traffic volume by about 10% and reduced congestion and traffic accidents. The system has the same objectives as the speed control system implemented on M25 in Britain, and is an effective measure for mitigating congestion.

During the workshop, the author felt the passionate commitment of France in promoting ITS. Information exchange should be continued by creating opportunities such as workshops like this.

■ TECHNICAL NOTE of National Institute for Land and Infrastructure Management (August, 2004)

No	Title of Paper	Names of Divisions
164	Technical documents developed for Building Standard Law, Housing Quality Assurance Act and other building/housing policy measures (Vol.2)	Standards and Accreditation System Division
186	Proceedings of the 9th Japanese-German Workshop on Waste Water and Sludge Treatment	Water Quality Control Department
187	Research on the deployment of an image information sharing system in the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport	Information Technology Division

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We publish the English version of "2005 Annual Report of NILIM" to show our research activities and accomplishments, and you can see all of its contents on our website, www.nilim.go.jp.



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