



International Press-in Association

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Messages

IPA enters its 15th year in existence

Chun Fai Leung

President, IPA

Osamu Kusakabe

Immediate President and Executive Director, IPA

IPA was inaugurated on 16th February 2007 in Cambridge with Prof Malcolm Bolton of Cambridge University as its Founding President and Mr. Akio Kitamura of GIKEN LTD. as its Honorary President (Photo 1). IPA has now entered its 15th year in existence. It has organized many events, seminars and research activities related to press-in engineering in the past many years in various parts of the world. The notably key event is the inaugural International Conference in Press-in Engineering held in Kochi, Japan, in September 2018 which attracted a large number of participants globally. The inaugural event was opened by the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering President Prof Charles Ng and Secretary General Prof Neil Taylor. The conference facilitated many fruitful exchanges and interaction among researchers and practitioners (Photo 2).



Photo 1 The Members of IPA Establishment



Photo 2 ICPE2018, Kochi

IPA has planned a good number of events to commensurate the IPA 15th year in existence. With the Covid-19 still affecting vast majority of countries globally, on-line communication remains the key communication channel among IPA members. With the Newsletter serving a major role, IPA has lined up a series of articles starting with this article in the March 2021 issue to kick off its celebration. The highlight of this year is certainly the 2021 International Conference on Press-in Engineering (ICPE) to be held online on 19-20 June. There will be a named IPA 15th year keynote lecture at the conference. In conjunction with the above, certain issues of the Newsletter will cover a special article on the IPA 15th Year Keynote Lecture as well as a special report on ICPE 2021. If feasible, the 15th Year Keynote Lecture will be made available online for the benefit of IPA community.

There will be a special article on 'History of IPA' in the December 2021 issue and the March 2022 Newsletter will be specially dedicated to the 15th Anniversary of IPA with articles highlighting the contributions and achievements of IPA on press-in piling.

To fulfil its mission of forming and developing the international network and contributing to the society on development on research and practice in press-in piling, IPA will continue to organize international seminars (Photo 3) and events online. Meetings by the IPA technical committees will continue to be held online (Photo 4). As soon as the Covid-19 situation is under control and face-to-face international meetings are feasible, IPA plans to reinstate its seminars and events face-to-face in various parts of the world. IPA's wish is that some events can be taken face-to-face during the present important year of IPA 15th year in existence. Examples include the IPA International Seminars in Taipei and Jakarta that were postponed in 2020.



Photo 3 Seminar on Press-in Technology in Singapore



Photo 4 Technical Committee Meeting

IPA is now equipped with four wheels to move forward towards the next 15 years: International Conference on Press-in Engineering, Newsletter, Handbook of Press-in Retaining Structure and Technical committee. On the 15th year of IPA foundation, IPA will concentrate its effort on multilingualization of the Handbook. Up to the present time, there exist Japanese, English and Chinese versions (Photo 5). Since revised English version will be published soon, a large project of multilingualization of the Handbook will be commenced in 2021 by translating the revised English version into French, Russian, Portuguese, Thai and Vietnamese. Once this project is completed, IPA community has the Handbook with eight different languages, which would certainly cover a major part of global needs for technological information of Press-in Piling (Photo 6).

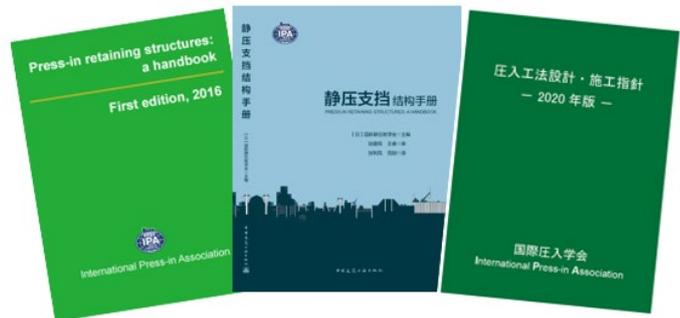


Photo 5 Handbook (English, Chinese and Japanese version)



Photo 6 Press-in Technology applied in 42 countries / areas

Research activities are of essence for future developments of Press-in Engineering and Press-in piling machine. IPA will make every effort to form more Technical committees on the occasion of the 15th year anniversary. Rapid development of AI technology enables us to make construction machinery automated. It is reasonably anticipated that piling is to be carried out by an automated piling machine in the next 15 years. One of the IPA technical committees will gather and compile know-hows that experienced operators gain through actual operation on site to provide a valuable data-base for deep learning, in connection with the development of automated press-in piling machine.