

Young Members Column

Vijayakanthan Kunasegaram

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I am Vijayakanthan Kunasegaram, a SriLankan and a final year PhD student at Tokyo institute of Technology (TIT). I received my bachelor degree in civil engineering at University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and Masters at TIT. I was first entered in IPA as a young researcher, to present the centrifuge model study about “self-standing steel pipe retaining wall” in a seminar held in Kochi, 2015. As part of the seminar, the field visit organized by IPA was a great opportunity for me to experience the real field constructions, advanced construction techniques and machineries related to the physical models in my PhD research. I was really impressed by the Press-in mechanism and the history behind the invention of “Silent Piler” by the IPA Honorary President Mr. Akio Kitamura, such a novel concept to overcome the miseries confronted on the company, back in 1970s. Today the “Silent Piler” with the advanced penetration techniques plays a major role in many construction projects around the world by removing the barriers, including noise and vibration.



Photo 1. Mr. Kunasegaram (the 2nd from left) got the best paper in ICPE 2018

As a developing country, the landscape of SriLanka continues to be enhanced by several mega projects including airports, highways, railways and urban developments with the aid of multilateral agencies along with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). While urging to develop the nation, it is also facing many challenges regarding to natural disasters (landslides and flooding), traffic congestion, aging and limited number of skilled workers and labor shortages, especially in the construction industry. I strongly believe that the innovative technologies and the indelible experiences of IPA with the contribution of civil engineering expertise could conquer the challenges in future Sri Lanka.

Announcement

The Second International Conference on Press-in Engineering (ICPE) 2021, Kochi: Call for Abstracts

IPA Secretariat

ICPE 2021 will be held on 19 (Sat) & 20 (Sun) June 2021 in Kochi, Japan organized by ICPE2021 Organizing Committee and International Press-in Association (IPA). ICPE Organizing Committee are calling for abstracts as follows.

■ Submission of abstracts/full papers

IMPORTANT DATES

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| 1. Call for Abstracts | 01 Nov 2020 |
| 2. Submission of Abstract | 26 Apr 2020 |
| 3. Notice of acceptance of abstract | 31 May 2020 |
| 4. Submission of full paper | 30 Sep 2020 |
| 5. Submission of revised final paper | 15 Jan 2021 |

Approximately 400 words, mailed to Assoc. Prof. Katsutoshi Ueno
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Submitted papers shall be peer-reviewed, and one registration is required for each paper.
Note: The registration fee will be announced on the ICPE2021 / IPA website shortly.

For further information about ICPE 2021, please [click here](#).