

Event Report

2nd International Conference on Construction Resources for Environmentally Sustainable Technologies (CREST 2023)

Hemanta Hazarika

Professor, Department of Civil Engineering
Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan

The 2nd International Conference on Construction Resources for Environmentally Sustainable Technologies (CREST 2023) was successfully held during November 20-22, 2023, at the Fukuoka International Congress Center, Fukuoka, Japan. After the successful online hosting of CREST 2020 in March 2021, this conference marks the second significant milestone in this dedicated series focused on advancing and promoting sustainable construction methodologies. A report on CREST 2020 was published in Volume 6 (Issue 2) of this newsletter.

CREST 2023 was organized by Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan, in association with University of Cambridge, International Society for Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering (ISSMGE), International Press-in Association (IPA), Japan Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE), Japanese Geotechnical Society (JGS), The Japan Landslide Society, ISSMGE Technical Committee 307 (TC307), ISSMGE Technical Committee 215 (TC215), ISSMGE Asian Regional Technical Committee 1 (AsRTC1), ISSMGE Asian Regional Technical Committee 3 (AsRTC3), and Global Society for Smart Geo-Sustainnovation (GLOSS). This conference received additional support from various other organizations, including Kyushu Regional Development Bureau (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan), Fukuoka Prefecture, Fukuoka City, Consulate General of India Osaka-Kobe, National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience (NIED), UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Fukuoka, Kyushu Branch of Japanese Geotechnical Society, The Society of Materials Science Japan (JSMS), Japan Federation of Construction Contractors (JFCC), Japan Civil Engineering Consultants Association (JCCA), Japan Geotechnical Consultants Association (JGCA), Organization of Geowaste Technology for a Recycled Based Society, Applied Slope Engineering Association (ASERG) and Local Resilience Research Institute (LRRI).

The conference kick-started with two pre-conference events, encompassing five parallel workshops and a technical tour. During the technical tour, the participants could visit few areas of Asakura city, Fukuoka Prefecture, which were hugely impacted by the torrential rainfall disasters in 2017. The participants could glean invaluable insights on the ongoing recovery and reconstruction efforts by the local government in these afflicted areas (Photo 1). On the other hand, in the five parallel workshops, more than 160 participants actively took part. A total of 36 presentations were delivered during these workshops, including keynote lectures by Prof. Tatsunori Matsumoto (Vice President, IPA) in Workshop 1 (Sustainability and Innovation in Geotechnical Engineering) and Prof. Noriyuki Yasufuku (Professor, Kyushu University) in Workshop 5 (International Youth Exchange on Interdisciplinary Engagement) (Photos 2 & 3).



Photo 1: A glimpse of the technical tour participants



Photo 2: Prof. Matsumoto delivering his lecture in the workshop on “Sustainability and Innovation in Geotechnical Engineering”

During the opening ceremony (Photos 4, 5, 6 & 7), many esteemed dignitaries graced the occasion and delivered speeches that added distinction to the event. Among these dignitaries were Professor Stuart K. Haigh (University of Cambridge), Mr. Yoshitaka Morito (Director General, Kyushu Regional Development Bureau), Mr. Ryosuke Shojima (Vice Governor, Fukuoka prefecture), Mr. Nikhilesh Giri (Consul General of India Osaka-Kobe), Dr. Marc Ballouz (President, ISSMGE), Professor Keh-Jian Shou (Vice-President, ISSMGE Asia), Professor Junichi Koseki (President, Japanese Geotechnical

Society), Professor Osamu Kusakabe (Executive Director, IPA and Honorary Chairperson of CREST 2023), and Professor Tatsuro Ishibashi (President, Kyushu University). The ceremony concluded with a welcome address by Professor Hemanta Hazarika (Chairperson of the Organizing Committee, CREST 2023).

During this conference, we had the privilege of presenting 2 distinguished plenary lectures, along with 16 engaging keynote addresses, 12 insightful theme lectures, and 6 young researchers special lectures. All the sessions showcased notable contributions from diverse interdisciplinary fields. In addition, a total of 175 papers were presented across 15 parallel sessions and 2 poster sessions.

The two-day main events drew an average participation of 320 people per day from 24 countries. Furthermore, the technical exhibition featured participation from 42 domestic and international corporations, attracting an average of 150 visitors daily (Photo 8). A noteworthy contribution of CREST 2023 is our steadfast commitment to nurturing young researchers. This commitment is exemplified by the announcement of 2 best oral presentation awards and 6 outstanding poster presentation awards. In addition, ISSMGE's prestigious Bright Spark Lecture awards were presented to 3 young researchers (Photo 9). These awards were specifically designed for presenters under the age of 35. In addition, 2 best papers were selected from 175 general papers. All the awards were presented during the closing ceremony.



Photo 3: Workshop on “International Youth Exchange on Interdisciplinary Engagement” at Inamori Center, Kyushu University



Photo 4: Dignitaries in the opening ceremony (from left to right: Prof. Junichi Koseki, Prof. Keh-Jian Shou, Prof. Stuart Haigh, Prof. Tatsuro Ishibashi, Mr. Yoshitaka Morito, Mr. Ryosuke Shojima, Mr. Nikhilesh Giri) with conference chairperson Prof. Hemanta Hazarika



Photo 5: Prof. Stuart Haigh delivering his remarks



Photo 6: Prof. Osamu Kusakabe delivering his remarks Online



Photo 7: Chairperson of CREST 2023 delivering his welcome remarks
In the closing ceremony, Professor Kazuya Yasuhara (Honorary Chairperson, CREST 2023), Professor Gopal Santana Phani

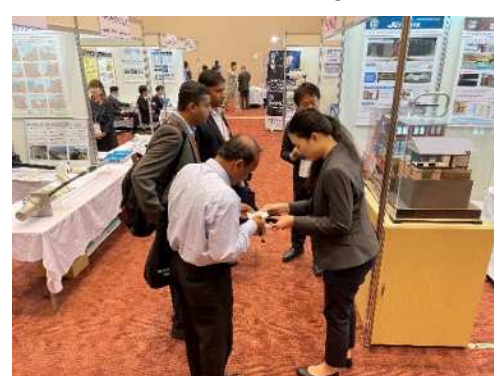


Photo 8: A glimpse of the technical exhibition

Madabhushi (Co-chairperson, CREST 2023), and Professor Keh-Jian Shou (Vice-President, ISSMGE Asia) delivered their remarks, imparting a distinguished touch to the event. The main conference reached its finale with a vote of thanks delivered by Professor Hemanta Hazarika.

We also take immense pleasure in announcing that Springer Nature will publish four volumes of the conference proceedings, encompassing the general papers presented at this event. Additionally, a dedicated volume, also to be published by Springer, will showcase the keynote addresses and special lectures from the conference. Furthermore, selected papers from the conference will be featured in special issues of esteemed journals, including *Soils and Foundations* (Japanese Geotechnical Society), *Journal of Forensic Engineering* (Institute of Civil Engineers, UK), *Indian Geotechnical Journal* (Indian Geotechnical Society), and *Journal of Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure*.

In the years ahead, we envision that the dissemination of cutting-edge information and technology facilitated by this conference will enable us to make meaningful contributions to the establishment of a resilient society and the sustainable management of construction resources through innovative practices.

As the Chairperson of the Organizing Committee for CREST 2023, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Professor Osamu Kusakabe, Executive Director of IPA, for his invaluable advice and unwavering encouragement since the inception of CREST 2023. Professor Tatsunori Matsumoto, Vice President of IPA, has been a steadfast supporter, actively engaging with sponsors to ensure the success of CREST 2023. I extend my sincere appreciation to him for his remarkable contributions. Furthermore, I would like to express my gratitude for the outstanding contributions of the young members of IPA, notably Ms. Nanase Ogawa and Dr. Siavash Manafi K. Pasha (Photo 10), who played crucial roles in overseeing the overall management of the conference.

In conclusion, I would like to convey my sincere appreciation to every member of the organizing committee, steering committee, technical committee, and various other sub-committees of CREST 2023 for their steadfast support. The persistent dedication and invaluable contributions of the dynamic team (Photo 11) have played a crucial role in transforming the organization of this event from a concept into a reality, a fact for which, as the organizing chairperson, I am truly grateful.



Photo 9: ISSMGE's Bright Spark Lecture awardees



Photo 10: Session Chair handing over the certificate of appreciation to the theme speaker



Photo 11: CREST 2023 core team members