

Reports

IPA Board Meeting 2023 and related events

IPA Secretariat

On July 3rd, 2023, the 13th IPA Board Meeting was held at the GIKEN's newly established facility "RED HILL 1967" in Akaoka, Konan City, Kochi Prefecture, which was opened in April this year. Last year in July, Chairman Leung visited the same facility and was deeply impressed by its development as a new base for press-in technology dissemination. With the intention of having other board members experience the facility as well, this gathering was realized. A total of 23 directors and auditors, consisting of 13 members from overseas and 10 members from Japan, gathered in Kochi.

On July 3rd, before the Board Meeting, there was a facility tour of "RED HILL 1967" and after the meeting, there was another facility tour of the GIKEN LTD.'s Kochi Head Office, followed by a social gathering with the company's executives and their employees. On the following day, July 4th, the participating directors and auditors split into four groups and engaged in various activities aimed at contributing to the local community from an academic perspective, increasing the recognition of IPA, and advancing press-in engineering.

Board of Directors Meeting 2023

The IPA Board Meeting on July 3rd was held in a hybrid format, with a total of 25 directors participating, exceeding the quorum (Photo 1). Out of the 25, 21 directors and 2 auditors attended the meeting in person, 1 director joined online, and 3 directors submitted proxies. The meeting began with a greeting from Chairman Leung, who introduced the successful IPA Seminar on Press-in Technology held in Taipei in June of this year, which attracted nearly 100 participants and local sponsors. It was also mentioned that there are plans to hold similar seminars in the future in Europe, including the Netherlands, as well as in Asia, including Thailand, the Philippines, and Hong Kong.



Photo 1 Board meeting

At the Board Meeting, important matters related to the operation of the IPA were proposed, confirmed and approved, such as the appointment of Vice Presidents for FY2023-2024, the appointment of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of each Standing Committee, the confirmation of members, and the establishment of the Steering Committee and the Nomination Committee. In addition, as a report item, Chairperson of each standing committee explained the activity plan for this year, and the information on the preparation status of ICPE2024 was shared with the members by President Leung. Finally, there was a discussion regarding the revision of the articles to add some provisions in order to translate the original text of the Constitution, By-Laws, and Regulations into English. This proposal received unanimous approval from all attending directors. The revision proposal is scheduled to be presented at the general meeting next year.

Following the Board Meeting, each Standing Committee Meeting was held to discuss this year's activity plan and specific measures. At the joint committee meeting of the Administration Committee, Development Committee, and Awards Committee, there was a lively discussion on measures to promote the active participation of young researchers and engineers, including students.

Tour of "RED HILL 1967"

Prior to the Board Meeting, a tour of GIKEN LTD.'s new facility "RED HILL 1967" was held (Photo 2). At the beginning of the tour, Mr. Kitamura, Honorary President of IPA and Executive Chairman of GIKEN LTD., explained the history and background of the development of this facility in Akaoka, his birthplace, and the concept of the facility development, "seeing is believing". During his speech, Mr. Kitamura referred to the challenges faced by the outdated construction industry and the mission of press-in technology. He highlighted the need for the construction industry to embrace the latest technologies in order to realize something unprecedented, and emphasized that press-in incorporates many of these cutting-edge technologies. He encouraged the experts and professionals present to investigate how press-in differs from conventional methods based not on precedents but on fundamental principles. Mr. Kitamura expressed his desire to receive various opinions to further refine and enhance press-in technology.

During the facility tour, Honorary Chairman Kitamura took the lead in giving an explanation, and the directors and auditors asked many technical questions about GIKEN's unique facility structure and construction principles of the machines on display.

"RED HILL 1967" will be introduced in detail in another issue, but it is a facility named after the place name "Akaoka", and 1967, the year when GIKEN LTD. was founded. The facility has a total area of 36,000 square meters and consists of the following four main parts:

The first is the Museum of Piling Machines, which includes the first Silent Piler and piling machines for other methods. The second is a demonstration area showing the press-in system and the pile structures built with the system, the third is a research building built with a structure in which the pressed-in steel sheet piles serve as both foundation and frame of the building, and the last one is GIKEN's largest plant Kochi No. 3 plant.



Photo 2 Group photo at "RED HILL 1967"

Tour of Facility of GIKEN

After the IPA Board Meeting at RED HILL 1967, we moved to the Kochi Head Office of GIKEN LTD., where we had a facility tour (Photo 3). During the facility tour, GIKEN presented some examples of the use of structures using pile materials constructed with press-in machines promoted by GIKEN and the test equipment that demonstrates their superiority as structures, such as a mechanical underground parking lot built by pressing piles into the ground in a cylindrical shape, a tsunami simulator using a pile-type breakwater model that is firmly supported by being pushed into the ground, and a caisson-type breakwater model that can withstand the external force by its own weight. The IPA directors and auditors, although some of them were visiting the company's facilities for the first time, were very interested in the GIKEN Group's technology, which promotes practical solutions to various social problems and issues related to construction through research and development.



Photo 3 Facility tour in GIKEN office

Afterwards, 15 executives and employees from GIKEN participated in the social gathering sponsored by GIKEN, where local cuisine and local sake from Kochi were served. We were able to feel that the interaction and exchange of opinions with IPA Honorary Chairman Kitamura and other GIKEN Group officers and employees has become a very valuable and important opportunity for the IPA directors and auditors as well.

Lecture Tour in Kochi

Acquisition of young members including students and promotion of their activities is one of the important issues for the development of the society and the progress of press-in engineering. Taking advantage of this opportunity where prominent directors in the field of geotechnical engineering were gathering from all over the world, IPA held some lectures by IPA directors on July 4th, for students majoring in geotechnical engineering at local academic institutions, Kochi University of Technology, and National Institute of Technology, Kochi College. Nearly 80 students attended each session, and the students listened intently to the insightful lectures given by each director.

Academic Lecture at Kochi University of Technology

Lecture 1	Learning Soil Mechanics in 45 Minutes	Executive Director, IPA Professor Emeritus, Tokyo Institute of Technology
	Dr. Osamu Kusakabe	
Lecture 2	Relationship between "Soil Mechanics" and "Social Infrastructure Facilities"	Director, IPA President & Representative Director, Seiwa Consultants Co., Ltd.
	Dr. Kenichi Horikoshi	

Academic Lecture at National Institute of Technology, Kochi College

Lecture 1	Singapore - Garden City and Sustainability	President, IPA Emeritus Professor, National University of Singapore
	Prof. Chun Fai Leung	
Lecture 2	HIPER™ Piles for Sustainability	Vice President, IPA City, University of London and Chief Engineer, Skanska UK Building
	Dr. Andrew McNamara	
Lecture 3	The Role of the Geotechnical Engineers in Solving Global Challenges	Vice President, IPA Professor, Delft University of Technology
	Prof. Kenneth Gavin	



Photo 4 Group photo at Kochi University of Technology



Photo 5 Group photo at National Institute of Technology, Kochi College

Research Interaction with GIKEN Science Department

Following the previous day, we held an opinion exchange meeting among IPA directors and auditors and the members of the Scientific Research Section of GIKEN LTD. on July 4th at RED HILL 1967, for the purpose of connecting researchers and practical engineers and promoting the progress of press-in engineering in theory and practice

Some presentations were made for the 12 directors and auditors regarding the joint research with the University of Cambridge, utilization of press-in construction data, some research outcomes regarding the performance of river embankments with double sheet pile wall structures, and some others. There was a lively question and answer session on the content of the presentations, and it was a meaningful time for both parties.

Seminar for the public on geotechnical engineering

On July 4th, 2023, the "Seminar on Geotechnical Engineering - From the Laboratory to the Field -" was held in Kochi City. Approximately 60 people participated, including policy makers, researchers, engineers, contractors, and students. It was held locally, and five IPA directors, and each director introduced the contents of research in their specialized fields and the latest topics. The program was as follows.

Presentation 1	Development of Rapid Loading Test of Piles	Vice President, IPA
	Prof. Tatsunori Matsumoto	Emeritus Professor, Kanazawa University
Presentation 2	Pixel-free image analysis technology and model experiments	Director, IPA
	Dr. Katsutoshi Ueno	Associate Professor, Tokushima University
Presentation 3	Scouring damage of river bridge foundations and its restoration technology	Director, IPA
	Prof. Hidetoshi Nishioka	Professor, Chuo University
Presentation 4	Topics related to piles used in harbors and oceans	Director, IPA
	Prof. Yoshiaki Kikuchi	Professor, Tokyo University of Science
Presentation 5	Deformation and failure behavior simulation of foundations and retaining wall structures using centrifugal models	Director, IPA
	Dr. Jiro Takemura	Associate Professor, Tokyo Institute of Technology

After each lecture, questions were accepted, and there were scenes where researchers asked questions to each other. Furthermore, several directors commented that new challenges from both research and practical perspectives could lead to societal innovation and change. During the break time, lively discussions were also observed, and the event ended successfully.

The video recordings of the lectures of this seminar (in Japanese) are now available on the IPA members' website. If you wish to watch them, please visit the following URL.

IPA members' site: <https://member.press-in.org/en/login>

To watch the videos, membership registration with the International Press-in Association is required. You can proceed with the registration process by visiting the following URL.

URL: <https://www.press-in.org/en/page/join>



Photo 6 Group photo at the seminar



Photo 7 Q&A Session at the seminar

Finally, we are firmly convinced that this series of events has marked a significant step forward for the International Press-in Association (IPA) in its pursuit of "integrating theory and practice" to visualize the invisible underground and create and provide the true value that society truly needs.