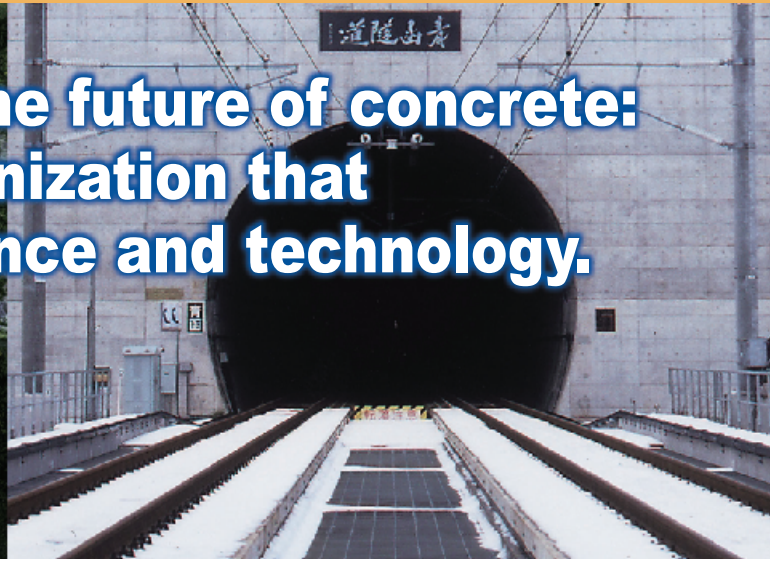


47 years of advancing the future of concrete: JCI is Japan's only organization that promotes concrete science and technology.



Kurobe No.4 Dam (Completed in 1963)



Seikan Tunnel (Completed in 1988)

Message from the President

The Role and Future Prospect of Japan Concrete Institute



Japan Concrete Institute was established in 1965 as Japan National Council on Concrete, and registered as an incorporated association in 1967. With the name change to Japan Concrete Institute (incorporated association) in 1975, we made a new start as a public interest incorporated association in

April 2011.

Only three weeks prior to our latest reorganization, the Great East Japan Earthquake struck Japan on March 11, 2011, which was the largest earthquake that Japan has ever experienced, with a magnitude of 9.0. Not merely earthquake ground motion, but also the subsequent giant tsunami with waves in excess of 10m, liquefaction, fuel tank fire, and landslides occurred in various locations inflicted intolerable damages. Furthermore, damages on Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant even caused hydrogen explosion and core melting, as well as widespread contamination of radioactive materials. The aftereffects of the earthquake still remain to this day, after more than one year, and recovery and reconstruction in the Tohoku region will be a long process. Other than the Great Earthquake, many natural disasters occurred in Japan, including the subsequent aftershocks, landslide disasters by typhoons No. 12 and 15, as well as avalanche of snow, all of which brought serious damages to many people.

However, the most of the damages to concrete structures by any disasters were relatively minimal, and hence we infer that those concrete structures helped to limit or reduce damages caused by disasters to the public. In the result, we believe that importance of concrete-made structures was demonstrated to the society.

Nonetheless, it could be said that an immense challenge that how we should deal with unexpected disasters like this is posed to us who are engineers.

In addition to seeking to contribute to the development of knowledge and technologies relating to concrete engineering, Japan Concrete Institute established the Concrete Engineer Qualification Test Systems, and a number of Authorized Concrete Engineers, Authorized Chief Concrete Engineers and Authorized Concrete Diagnosis and Maintenance Engineers have passed the qualification tests in the past. These authorized engineers have been playing important roles of not only to construct higher-quality concrete structures but also to achieve social capital improvement through appropriate maintenance and operation of existing structures. In the future also, we will work to promote concrete technologies more than ever before, by providing and disseminating information on latest research, technology and international trend.

It is the responsibility of Japanese society to achieve recovery and reconstruction following the Great East Japan Earthquake, and at Japan Concrete Institute, together with all our members, we contribute to this recovery and reconstruction through the development of safe and secure social infrastructure based on concrete engineering and technologies.

Efakuro Okamoto
25th President,
Japan Concrete Institute

