

One important responsibility of the Concrete Committee of the Japan Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE) is a periodic revision of the JSCE Standard Specifications for Concrete Structures (the Standard Specifications) to bring it up to date with current practice and the latest technological trends. In recent times, the demands of society mean that a new edition has been published once in five years. The year 2023 is one such year, so the committee will publish revisions of the “General Principals”, “Design”, and “Maintenance” volumes in March, followed by “Materials and Construction” and “Dam Concrete” in September. In response to the trend of recent years toward digital publication, conventional print and electronic editions will go on the market simultaneously. The committee very much hope that this new Standard Specifications proves helpful in promoting the construction of quality concrete structures and that by this means it contributes to the development of society.

The committee recognizes that it is also important to make the Standard Specifications available internationally. To this end, a summarized English version is being prepared for the first time in 15 years. It will be available at no charge in electronic form. This edition will provide a compact reference to the essential points and characteristics of the full Standard Specifications, and the committee expects it to advance international recognition and have a good ripple effect on business, science, education, and other areas.

In addition to work on the Standard Specifications, the concrete committee has also been continuing its other multifaceted work, such as developing recommendations and guidelines, holding seminars and lectures at home and abroad, and establishing subcommittees related to various specific issues. The year 2023 will also see publication of some additional guidelines such as “Recommendation for Mix Design and Construction of Mechanically-compacting Flowable Concrete”.

The Concrete Committee has a long history, having been established in its original form almost a century ago in 1928 as the Concrete Research Committee of the JSCE. On the other hand, concrete structures also remain in service through many generations. As technology undergoes rapid changes and advances, and as the society of which it forms part evolves, fashionable new terminology appears every year. Concrete and concrete structures, however, remain more constant; the important fundamentals and ways of thinking do not change greatly over the short term.

In this spirit, and understanding the importance of developing infrastructure that contributes to ensure the safe, comfortable and sustainable society, I have pursued my work as chairman of this committee over the past four years. With my term coming to a conclusion at the end of March 2023, I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for everyone’s support over these years.

Chairman of the JSCE Concrete Committee
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