Opening Address
by
Professor Hiroshi Noguchi, Dean, Faculty of Eng., Chiba University

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

As the dean of Faculty of Engineering, Chiba University, I am very pleased to welcome you to Chiba University to attend "the 3rd International Workshop on Remote Sensing for Post-Disaster Response".

My research interests include seismic design of reinforced concrete buildings, structural performance evaluation of R/C structural members and FEM nonlinear analysis of R/C structural members. Therefore, I would like to think highly of the importance of the workshop's title: Remote Sensing for Post-Disaster Response.

And also I think the third and forth resolutions agreed upon in the 2nd International workshop were excellent and attractive.

1. To publicize the results of the first, second and third workshop, a Workshop Website will be created that contains the details of future workshops, the proceedings of past workshops, and past workshop presentations.
2. A journal article in EERI Spectra that introduces the concept of post-event damage detection using remote sensing technologies, remote sensing applications in building inventory development, and a standardized damage scale applicable worldwide.

Because these publications and introductions will be very useful for passing on the workshop's results to the general public. I think it is very important to transfer the research results to the general public by simple and understandable expression.

I believe this workshop is quite important because recently we have so many large scale natural disasters around the world.

In Japan, we had the Niigata-ken Chuetsu earthquake, in October, last year. In

Asia, the Great Sumatra earthquake on December 26 caused massive tsunami, and killed almost 300 thousand people all around the Indian Ocean rim. Only two weeks ago, Hurricane Katrina brought the worst natural disaster in the history of the United States.

In these disasters, remote sensing technology has been proven to be a quite useful tool to capture damage distribution. I believe your discussion in this workshop will contribute to the advancement of the related technologies.

In Chiba University, we have several active researchers of earthquake engineering, disaster mitigation, and remote sensing. I am proud of having this important meeting at Chiba University under the coordination of our faculty members.

I hope your stay in Chiba is fruitful and enjoyable.
Thank you very much.