



A MESSAGE FROM PROFESSOR MASAMI FUKUOKA:

The 3rd International Conference of Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering was held in 1953 in Switzerland. Five Japanese delegates including Professor K. Hosino and myself attended the conference. The International Society of Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering was established, and Professor K. Terzhagi was elected the First President of the Society. Six Vice Presidents were elected from the regions of Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe, North America and South America. Professor K. Hosino was elected the First Vice President from the Asian Region. The First Asian Regional Conference was held in 1959 in India.

Though diplomatic trouble disturbed the peaceful opening of the conferences, tremendous effort of the successive Vice Presidents and enthusiasm of the members in this region made it possible to hold conferences every 4 years. I would like to warmly congratulate all members on the fact that the 9th Asian Regional Conference is going to be held in 1991 in Bangkok, one of the centers of soil engineering in Asia. Asia occupies one third of the area of whole world, and natural conditions and human activities are different place to place. Soil conditions and methods of applying soil engineering are not the same in each place. It is still important to exchange information by utilizing the activity of the Society. It is the policy of our regional conferences to choose subjects which are important from the local point of view. There are many problems peculiar to this region. Among those problems, there are some problems which are of interest to engineers outside our region. Participants from other regions can help us to solve these problems.

One of the important aspects of the conference is to attend and become acquainted with each other. Bangkok is a very convenient place for the members to travel. It is my hope that the members of this region may participate positively by overcoming all difficulties. As our soil engineering has not grown fully to predict everything which may occur during and after construction, prediction and performance do not always coincide well. How to improve our method of coping with actual construction work is important. Engineering judgement is necessary to cover the deficiency of our soil engineering. As Professor Terzhagi said, it is not important to write a paper to tell us how nature should perform according to the author's test results and equations", but to exchange our frank experience is more important.

Masami Fukuoka