

**Prof. Akira Murakami** received his BS (1978) at the Agricultural Engineering Department; MS (1980) at the Civil Engineering Department and Dr. Agr. (1991) from Kyoto University (KU), respectively. In 1982, he became an assistant professor at the Agricultural Engineering Department of KU, and was promoted to an associate professor of KU in 1994. He moved to the Graduate School of Environmental Science of Okayama University with a promotion to full professor in 1999. After joining Okayama University for just 10 years, he moved back to a full professor of KU in 2009. He has served as the Vice President of the Japanese Geotechnical Society (JGS), the Board Member of the Japanese Society of Irrigation, Drainage and Rural Engineering (JSIDRE), and the International Association for Computer Methods and Advances in Geomechanics (IACMAG), and also serves as a core member of TC103 of ISSMGE and a member of the Multidisciplinary International Society on Inverse Problems in Science and Engineering. He had acted as the Secretary of TC34 of ISSMGE for two terms and delivered a general report of 'Numerical Methods' at 16ICSMGE held in Osaka. He is the recipient of the Japanese Society of Civil Engineering (JSCE) Paper Award (1996), the JSIDRE Sawada Prize (2007), the JGS Best Accomplishment Award (2008), the JSIDRE Best Paper Award (2010), the JGS Paper Award (2011, 2013) and is a Fellow of JSCE. His research interests include the data assimilation, inverse problem, finite element methods, mesh free methods, and DEM in geomechanics.