



International Newsletter

Korean Society of Civil Engineers



The 3rd CECAR Moves Asia into the Future

The long awaited 3rd CECAR (Civil Engineering Conference in the Asian Region) held its grand opening on August 16th at the Sheraton Walkerhill Hotel in Seoul, Korea under the theme of "Moving Asia into the Future". Organized by the Asian Civil Engineering Coordinating Council (ACECC) and hosted by KSCE, the four day conference attracted almost 1,000 participants from 17 countries. The keynote lecture was delivered by the former Minister of Environment Dr. Myung Ja Kim, on "Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development in NorthEast Asia".

What makes the CECAR a distinctive international meeting is that the conference provides an international forum for discussions and exchange of ideas on civil engineering profession. The 3rd CECAR organized two different special forums and five special lectures. Presidents of the ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers), JSCE (Japan Society of Civil Engineers), PICE (Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers), CICHE (Chinese Institute of Civil and Hydraulic Engineering) and the vice president of the VIFCEA (Vietnam Federation of Civil Engineering Associations) presented special lectures on issues varying from national infrastructure development plans to practical civil engineering education. Two special forums were also held on themes of "Great Mekong Sub-region" and "New Trends in the Asian Construction Industry", which generated keen interests from the conference participants.



Opening ceremony with delegates from member countries

A total of 138 papers were presented during the parallel sessions on ten technical tracks. Involvement of civil engineering students were also encouraged through the "Student Essay" and the "Young Engineers Session" where student delegates gathered to present their academic papers and essays on sustainable development. On the last day of conference, many participants took part in technical visits to the Chunggye stream restoration project in Seoul, the north Han River dams, and the KTX (Korea Train eXpress) high speed rail project. Following a great success this year, the next CECAR is planned to be hosted by CICHE in Taipei in May 2007.

Workshop for Attracting Future Civil Engineers

Avoiding both science and engineering fields of study for future career among the younger generation has become widespread, raising a major concern that the nation would face a serious shortage of engineering manpower. The civil engineering field is not an exception, and the needs for raising the professional competitiveness of civil engineers in both educational institutions and industries have recently become an issue of great concern. Workshop for attracting future civil engineers was aimed to resolve such difficulties by discussing proposals and suggestions from civil engineering professionals in academia and industries.

Held at the assembly hall of the Korean Foundation of

Teacher's Associations building on April 30th, the workshop was divided into four presentation sessions followed by a panel discussion. Among the 120 participants, a group of students majoring civil engineering was also present to bring the discussion into the heart of the matter by expressing their points of view. Most of the discussion panel agreed in stressing the needs for changing the image of civil engineering career, which has long been misunderstood to mean intensive labor and harsh working environment. Increasing the financial support to the research and development sector was also of a great concern by many panelists, in order to bring a rise in the demands for a greater number of professional civil engineers.