

Report on activity with the young engineers for the young engineers having “the Dreams” (Global Competitive subcommittee within JSCE Committee on Civil Engineering Consultants)

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1. Background of Subcommittee establishment

First of all, “the Dreams” included in the title of this paper mean the dreams of young civil engineers who wish to work at foreign developing countries for the international contribution in the future.

Becoming the 21st century, many discussions concerning global competitiveness of Japan have been rousing in various fields, for instance talent education, research and development, the emphasis and strengthen of Japanese industries, creation of new industry and so on. In Japan Society of Civil Engineers (Hereafter, it is called JSCE), mission statement concerning international activities that contribute to the development of civil engineering is clearly described in JSCE Constitution amended on November 1999 ¹⁾. According to the purport of a JSCE chairman’s special committee report ²⁾, JSCE Committee on Civil Engineering Consultants, chaired by Mr. Hirose, set up the Global Competitiveness Subcommittee (Hereafter, it is called Subcommittee) on December 2006 under the strong support by Prof. Kusakabe, former chairman of the JSCE Committee on Civil Engineering Consultants. The purpose of this subcommittee is to offer a chance and information in practical use to bring up the dreams of young engineers who will work at overseas projects for international contributions in the future.

This paper reports unique activities of the Subcommittee compared with other committees in JSCE Research and Studies section, and also describes activity plans for the future of the Subcommittee with young student members.

2. Originality of Subcommittee’s activity

It is the characteristics of the Subcommittee that

members are composing of not only the consultants but also contractor engineers, students, and a columnist who is not a civil engineer, and that all of student members are willingly taking up a constructive attitudes in the progress of the Subcommittee.

The main activity began on February 2007 using the style of conversation meeting, which was planned for young person to give a chance to touch on an overseas project through engineer's humanity characteristics, engineering skills and knowhow that passes to the international projects.

3. Activities in Season I

The Season I (one) activity of the Subcommittee was operated during December 2006 to August 2008. The following three activities were planned and carried out successfully.

a) Conversation meeting “the Dreams” for young person

Seven in total meetings were organized as shown in Table 1. This meeting gives a chance of mutual discussion and exchange opinions between young engineers and a senior engineer experienced in the overseas projects as shown in photo 1. Guest speakers consisted of consultants, contractor engineers and professors who had experienced foreign projects in private sectors in their career histories.

b) Publication of supplementary reader for young person

A publication titled “The Concierge to International Activities for Civil Engineers -Messages from Seven Professionals-” came out on May 2008 ³⁾ as a supplementary reader for young civil engineers having “the Dreams”. This book deals with personality and activity of seven professionals participated in the conversation meeting mentioned above. Because it is written by a member of the

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Table 1 Conversation Meeting “the Dreams” for young person

	Date	Guest speaker
1	2007/2/13	Mr. Kinich KATOH (Consultant)
2	2007/4/25	Mr. Monichro TSUCHIYA (Contractor)
3	2007/7/4	Prof. Tsuneaki YOSHIDA (Univ.)
4	2007/10/16	Mr. Shuuich SATO (Consultant)
5	2007/11/26	Mr. Katsuyuki FUKUDA (Contractor)
6	2008/1/29	Prof. Shunji KUSAYANAGI (Univ.)
7	2008/4/16	Mr. Hiroshi ICHIKAWA (Contractor)

Subcommittee who was a former pressman and now free columnist, this book is an interesting reading differing from the technical committee report. The reputation of the publication is therefore very high as new employee's supplementary reader to the private engineering company.

c) Organization of Research discussion in Annual Conf.

In JACE the 63rd Annual Conference in 2008, the Subcommittee organized the research discussion entitled “Personality X ; Engineering skills and professionalism of the engineer being active in the world”⁴⁾. In the program, two student committee members participated as panelists, and they talked about their dreams of aiming at international contributions.

4. Indispensable activity for the young engineers

Through the activities in season I, in order to bring up young engineers who wished to have capability for the international contribution, the following current states and problems to be improved were clarified.

- It is true that there are many Japanese students and young civil engineers who have strongly dreams concerning international contributions to the developing countries through participation of overseas projects in the future.
- It is also true that students in civil engineering course know hardly anything concerning the actual state of overseas affairs especially for civil engineering project system because there is little course of education curriculum for an international civil engineering.
- Students and young civil engineers sincerely want to know the practical information from engineers having abundantly experience in overseas projects. But, there is



Photo 1 The 1st Conversation Meeting “the Dreams” for young person held on 13 February 2007, JSCE Main Hall

unfortunately rarely such a chance because the international engineers are not working in Japan.

- It is necessary and indispensable that an educational chance of the face to face communication between the engineers experienced in overseas projects, and students and young civil engineers having “the Dreams” is organized in the activity of the JSCE committee.

5. Activity plan in Season II

The subcommittee is now starting the activity of Season II (two), newly chaired by Mr. KANAI, with seven student members from September 2008. It is the changing point from Season I activities that the focus of main activity is applied to study on Official Development Assistance (ODA) required for our country in the 21st century. For the purpose, the following activities are planned.

- Basic study on the ABC of the ODA and OECD-DAC (History, System, Rule, etc) for student members.
- Evaluation of the Japanese ODA on the basis of international students from developing countries. This activity was accepted by JSCE for the 2009 research grant.
- Plan of organization of symposium and publication which is tentatively titled “Message from Subcommittee; For the 21st century’s ODA of Japan”.

References

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