

Final Report of the 3rd CECAR

Reported by

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The Third Civil Engineering Conference in the Asian Region, 3rd CECAR, organized by the Asian Civil Engineering Coordinating Council, ACECC, was held in Seoul, Korea from August 16th to 19th, 2004. The conference attracted 992 participants from 7 member societies of ACECC including 20 participants from 10 non-member countries.

1. Background of the 3rd CECAR

KSCE (Korean Society of Civil Engineers), a member of ACECC, officially submitted to the 3rd ECM (Executive Committee Meeting) of ACECC held in Seattle, Washington, in October 2000 a proposal of hosting the 3rd CECAR in 2004. At that time, ACECC-ECM unanimously approved KSCE's proposal of hosting the conference. At the 4th ECM held in Tokyo, April 2001, Dr. S.-W. Hong of KSCE was officially approved as Chair of the LOC (Local Organizing Committee) of 3rd CECAR. Subsequently, at the 5th ECM held in Seoul, October 2001, Dr. H. Woo of KSCE was officially approved as Secretary General of the LOC.

Then, the LOC for the 3rd CECAR was initially established in January 2002. The LOC, in close collaboration with the ACECC-ECM, selected “*Moving Asia into the Future*” as main theme of the conference and the followings as major technical tracks:

- Track 1: Infrastructure
- Track 2: Human Resources
- Track 3: Natural Disasters
- Track 4: Professional Issues
- Track 5: Project Management
- Track 6: Contracting Practice
- Track 7: Research and Development
- Track 8: Mega Project
- Track 9: Inter-regional Cooperation
- Track 10: Future of Engineering

Since the inauguration of the LOC in 2002, progress of preparation for the conference had been continuously reported to the ACECC-ECM through the 6th ECM in Washington, D.C., November 2001, the 7th ECM in Brisbane, May 2003, the 8th ECM in Hochiminh City, March 2004, and the 9th ECM that was held in Seoul on the eve of the conference.

2. Registration and Opening Ceremony

The conference officially drew 992 persons making this conference to be the largest among the past three conferences in terms of number of registration. Number of registration from seven member societies and other countries are as follows:

Table1. Number of Registration

| Member societies | Assigned number (pessimistic scenario) | Actual number |
|------------------|---|---------------|
| ASCE | 50 | 14 |
| CICHE | 50 | 77 |
| EA | 25 | 13 |
| JSCE | 150 | 252 |
| KSCE | 450 | 570 |
| PICE | 25 | 27 |
| VIFCEA | 1 | 19 |
| Others | 0 | 20 |
| Total | 751 | 992* |

Note) * It includes general participants (769), daily participants (125), students (35), spouses (36), and no-shows (27).

The conference was held in Sheraton Walkerhill Hotel, Seoul, from 16th to 19th of August, 2004. The presidents of seven ACECC member societies; Mr. D.S. Kang, Minister of the Ministry of Construction and Transportation, Korea; Dr. M. Kim, Congress woman and immediate past Minister of the Ministry of Environment, Korea; Dr. J.-H. Sonu, Honorary Conference Chair; Dr. K.-I. Kim, ACECC Chair; and Dr. S.W. Hong, LOC Chair attended the opening ceremony. About 600 persons participated in the ceremony filling almost all of the seats in the conference main hall.

3. Conference Activities

The conference included major activities of technical programs, social programs,

technical exhibition and technical visits. The highlight of each activity is summarized as follows.

3.1 Technical programs

The technical programs included Plenary and Parallel Sessions, Special Forums, and Student Essay and Young Engineers' Session.

(1) Plenary Sessions

Technical programs started with the Keynote Address of “Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development in Northeast Asia” by Dr. Myungja Kim, Congress woman and immediate past minister of Ministry of Environment, Korea.

Five special lecturers were given during the two conference days in the plenary session and all the participants were deeply impressed by those five lectures. On August 17th, the first special lecturer of the conference, Dr. Yutaka Takahasi of JSCE, gave the participants a lecture entitled “The Suggestion of the Civil Practical Education by 'The Civil Picture Book Series’”, and the second lecturer, Mr. M. Bonoan of PICE gave the participants a lecture on “Philippines Medium-term Dpwh Infrastructure Development Plan CY 2005-2010”. The third lecturer, Dr. Sheng-Fong LIN of CICHE, Minister without Portfolio of Republic of China (Taiwan), gave the participants a lecture on “National Sustainable Development Action Plan of Taiwan.” On August 18th, the fourth lecturer, Mr. Thai Quang Nguyen of VIFCEA gave the participants a lecture on “National Plan in Vietnam: Process and Perspectives”, and the last lecturer, Dr. Tomasz Arciszewski of ASCE, gave the participants a lecture on “Information Technology in the Context of Innovation and Computation in Civil Engineering.”

(2) Parallel sessions

During the two days of parallel sessions, a total of 97 papers were orally presented in 6 parallel sessions while the presenters did not present 8 papers that were planned for oral presentation due to the last minute cancellation. Each session was chaired by a chair and a co-chair of KSCE member. As for poster presentation, a total of 27 papers were presented with 5 papers planned not posted. All these papers, regardless of presentation, were listed in the conference proceedings. Table 2 shows the number of papers presented from member societies.

Table 2. Number of Papers Presented in Oral and Poster Sessions

| Member | ASCE | CICHE | EA | JSCE | KSCE | PICE | VCA | Others | Total |
|--------|------|-------|----|------|------|------|-----|--------|-------|
| (1) | 15 | 11 | 9 | 35 | 27 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 105 |
| (2) | 2 | 0 | 2 | 17 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 32 |
| (3) | 17 | 11 | 11 | 52 | 37 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 137 |

Note: (1) Number of papers to be orally presented, (2) Number of papers to be presented as poster, (3) Total number of papers listed in the proceedings

Track 7 of Research and Development drew the largest number of papers, a total of 42, followed by Track 1 of Infrastructure and Track 5 of Project Management with number of papers of 26, and 17, respectively.

Most of the parallel sessions were crowded with more than 40 audiences, while a few sessions were less crowded with less than 20 audiences, depending on the interest of the session topics.

(3) Special Forums # 1 and # 2

The LOC planned and operated two Special Forums in the conference. Special Forum #1, organized by JSCE and chaired by Dr. O. Kusakabe of JSCE, focused on the regional development of Great Mekong Sub-region with international cooperation. The forum drew about 70 participants from other regions as well as Mekong sub-region of Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and Thailand. Four papers, one from each Mekong sub-regional country, were presented and then a Discussion Session on “How can civil engineers in the Asian region contribute to the GMS?” chaired by Dr. O. Kusakabe followed at the end of the forum.

Special Forum #2, organized by Dr. Y.-N. Lee of KSCE, focused on “New Trends in the Asian Construction Industry.” The forum was quite successful drawing more than 100 participants. Four sessions were operated in the forum, each of which was organized by JSCE, ASCE/VIFCEA, CICHE and KSCE, respectively. At the beginning, the opening speech was given by Dr. K.I. Kim, ACECC Chair. Each session had two to four papers presented and then a conclusive discussion followed at the end of the forum. A dinner reception for the forum participants followed immediately after the discussion.

(4) Student Essays

In order to encourage young undergraduate students majoring civil engineering in

ACECC member societies, student essay contest had been conducted in each member society in advance and the best essay was selected and recommended to LOC. The winner was invited to the conference with all expenses paid by LOC. During the lunch break of August 18th, seven students presented their own views and comments on sustainable development drawing much attention among participants. After the essay presentation, LOC guided all of the seven students to the laboratories of Korea Institute of Construction Technology in Ilsan, outskirts of Seoul.

(5) Young Engineers Session

Young Engineers Session (YES), a new program adopted for the first time at this conference, intended to provide young civil engineers in the Asian region with experience of presentation/discussion and social friendship among participants. In this respect, this program was successful, drawing more than 30 students from KSCE, JSCE, and CICHE. This program continued for two days with 8 presentations on the first day of conference and 12 presentations on the second day. Each session was co-chaired by two professors from KSCE, JSCE and CICHE. The LOC expects this program to be continued to next conferences.

The closing ceremony of the conference was held with about 350 participants. The conference was officially closed with a conference summary reported by Dr. C. S. Chon, ACECC Secretary General, and a presidential meeting summary reported by Dr. Y. N. Lee, Chair of ACECC Planning Committee. The ACECC flag and conference bell were transferred from the immediate past chairs of ACECC and LOC to the next respective chairs.

A limited number of the conference proceedings are still available at the 3rd CECAR LOC. They may be distributed to ACECC and member societies upon request.

3-2 Social Programs

The social programs of the conference included welcome reception and gala dinner.

(1) Welcome Reception

The welcome reception, held on the eve of the conference, drew about 400 participants. During the reception, key persons from each society were introduced and icebreaking continued among participants.

(2) Gala Dinner

The gala dinner, held on the evening of August 18th, drew about 300 participants enjoying a warm atmosphere of international friendship and performance of Korean traditional arts. Civil Harmony, organized especially for this conference with about 25 civil engineers from-KSCE, drew big hands from participants.

3-3 Exhibition

The technical exhibition was another success of the conference with all of 40 booths opened. A ceremonial tape cutting was held at the entrance of the exhibition hall by presidents of seven member societies and some Korean conference VIP's. Seven member societies of ACECC opened their own booths side by side. The other 33 booths were either by complementary or sale.

3-4 Technical Visits

At the end day of the conference on August 19th, three technical visits were offered by LOC. The Course 1, Cheonggye-Cheon Restoration Project and a subway construction site in Seoul drew 61 participants with two buses. Course 2, The North Han River Visit, drew 21 participants with one bus. Course 3, Sihwa project and riding Korea Train Express (KTX) drew 31 participants also with one bus. Most participants expressed satisfaction with the planning of visits as well as the beautiful natural environment and warm social environment during the trips.

4. Other Activities

In the morning of August 16th, the 9th ECM of ACECC was held in the same venue of conference with the ACECC Secretariats, all seven member societies, three representatives from Laos, Cambodia and Thailand participating. During the meeting, the final preparation for the 3rd CECAR was reported by LOC.

Presidential Meeting was held with dinner on the 16th of August. The representatives of Cambodia, Thailand, and Laos who were invited to Special Forum #1 were also invited to the Presidential Meeting.

5. Financial Report of the 3rd CECAR (to be reported in a separate agendum)