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# Boosting the Appeal of Civil Engineering

土木の魅力向上に向けて

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Special Committee for Boosting the Appeal of Civil Engineering

# Message from the President on Boosting Civil Engineering for Creating the Future

June 2024  
Shigeyoshi Tanaka  
111th President,  
Japan Society of Civil Engineers



Since my inauguration as President of JSCE in June 2023, I have launched the “Project to Boost Civil Engineering for Creating the Future” as a part of President Projects, and have engaged in activities through two subcommittees aimed at (1) discovering and promoting the wonderful world of civil engineering, and (2) boosting the status of civil engineers. Based on the activities of each subcommittee and the proposals put forth by them, I wish to deliver the “President’s Message” as follows.

Through these activities, I have come to reaffirm my mission as president to create an environment where everyone involved in civil engineering can feel rewarded and thrive in their work. When society recognizes the role and importance of civil engineering and comes to respect it as a highly appealing industry that attracts people, it will boost the motivation and sense of purpose among civil engineers, and elevate the status of the profession.

## 1 Promoting the Appeal of Civil Engineering Through a “Relay with Everyone’s Participation”

Let’s make sure that people in all positions actively promote the appeal of civil engineering “**in their own words.**” Doing so will allow the industry to be promoted extensively throughout society, and pass on the “**baton of technology**” to more successors.

## 2 Learning from Civil Engineering History and Passing on Technologies and Aspirations

It is important that we learn from outstanding historical projects and examples from the past, and pass on technologies and aspirations to the next generation. Gaining new insights and realizing innovation requires focusing on **the progress of technologies and engineers in the past.** Let’s re-evaluate past initiatives based on current perspectives, and this will lead to the next wave of innovations.

### 3

#### Recognizing and Highlighting Individual Skills and Achievements

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Civil engineering projects are often executed in anonymity, **making it difficult to see the achievements of individual engineers**. So, there is a need to consider ways to **highlight the skills and achievements of individuals for the world to see**. I want to create a system that gives recognition to individual civil engineers and provides **a platform for mutual acknowledgement** to raise their individual status.

### 4

#### Participating in Education

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Fostering the next generation of civil engineers requires the **raising of awareness for civil engineering in educational institutions**. It is also important to establish an environment to allow the **discovering of future leaders of the industry**. Let's strive to ensure the involvement of a variety of civil engineering stakeholders in education. This will enable us reach out to future generations and local communities, and convey the **"appeal and wonders of civil engineering"** to raise its status and secure future talent.

### 5

#### Creating the Future Through Innovation

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The construction industry is currently undergoing a major transformation through **the deployment of technologies for automation, unmanned systems, remote operations and AI**. We will revolutionize the entire construction system to enhance productivity and added value, and **create the future by achieving innovation through digital transformation**. Furthermore, the future of civil engineering is bright with expectations for it **to contribute to carbon neutrality (CN) and nature positivity**.

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#### [Final Words]

As Koi Furuichi, the first president of the Japan Society of Civil Engineers said, civil engineers are **"people with the qualities and capabilities of leaders,"** and I hope that everyone will **take pride in these words as they strive to fulfill the mission of civil engineering**. I want you to cherish your aspirations as civil engineers, and leverage **the management skills of comprehensive engineering** to continue contributing to the future **well-being of people**.

I hope to see everyone **spearheading innovation and engaging proactively in creating the future**.

# How to Boost the Appeal of Civil Engineering (Example Initiatives)

## Discovering and Promoting the Wonderful World of Civil Engineering

### Promoting the Appeal of Civil Engineering

Concept movie featuring  
President Tanaka himself

\*Awarded the Grand Prize in the External  
Communication Category of ITVA Japan  
Contest 2023



Video of a discussion between a  
construction-focused YouTuber  
and the president



### Conveying the Appeal of Civil Engineering in Your Own Words

Two videos on “bridges” and “waterworks” were produced focusing on the thoughts and feelings of people who plan, investigate, design, construct, and use civil engineering structures.



### Creation of the Card Game “Dobo City”

With the aim of promoting and expanding knowledge in civil engineering among junior and senior high school students, a card game was created by committee members who designed and developed the game themselves.



## Kurobe River Power Plant Project Archive

This was created as a part of activities to archive past projects. 60 years have passed since the completion of Kurobe Dam, and a video was produced to document the valuable experiences of veteran engineers who know about its construction at the time.

### The People Who Shared Their Experiences



Sukenori Ota



Yoichi Takemura



Hiroshi Motoda



Haruo Watanabe



Kazumi Goto



Tadatomo Ota talks about  
Konetsu-Zuido in Kurobe

Mr. Ota worked for a total of 8 years in his youth at the Kurobe No. 4 and Shin- Kurobe No. 3 Power Station construction sites, as well as in the construction of Konetsu-Zuido.



Kurobe No. 4 Dam

## Raising the Status of Civil Engineers

### Intensive Discussions Aimed at Raising the Status of Civil Engineers

Intensive one-night-and-two-day discussions on creating an environment aimed at raising the status of civil engineers were held on two occasions.



As an opportunity to convey the appeal  
of being a civil engineer

Training  
opportunities

Certification systems

Opportunities  
for recognition

Engineer database

Proposal for allowing the visualization  
of our status through establishment

## Aiming to Secure Local and Next-Generation Civil Engineers

We gather extensive information from educational institutions throughout the country, while also engaging in activities to promote the appeal of civil engineering.



It is not the lack of interest in civil engineering, but the major theme for future communication is the general perception that the environment created by civil engineering is “taken for granted.”

## One-Day Hands-on Project to Get Used to Handling Soil

Hands-on events were held for high school students interested in civil engineering and science. Students took part in actual hands-on research activities at university laboratories in two locations.



Waseda University



Kyoto University



Reporting session (JSCE)

## Amazing Civil Engineering Technology Grand Prize

We gathered outstanding works from the public to showcase the greatness of civil engineering and civil engineers. 78 videos were collected on examples of advanced planning, designing, and construction, and the winner of the grand prize was selected.



Video showing the completion of construction in a mere 3.5 hours on the day of the switch.

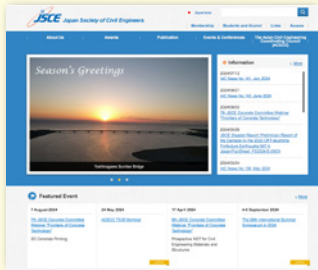


Close-up documentary focusing on the orderly progress of construction, as well as the people involved.



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JSCE website



<https://www.jsce-int.org/>



JSCE International Activities Center News (IAC News)

<https://www.jsce-int.org/pub/iacnews/>



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