

Preface

The Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) and Japan Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE) have made an agreement of cooperation five years ago. However, there were not many opportunities for us to contact with each other on technical issues. This is for the first time, the Civil Engineering Division, IEB; is going to jointly organize a seminar on bridge engineering with Committee of Steel Structures, JSCE. The Roads and Highways Department and Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority of the Government of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh have extended their full support for the event.

In Bangladesh, bridges form a vital component of communication infrastructure. The geographical location also puts Bangladesh in an important location to contribute in regional cooperation through participation in Asian highway network. To this end, considerable efforts were given over the last decades to construct a nationwide uninterrupted road and rail network. This drive resulted in construction of remarkable bridges over some of the major rivers and tributaries. A number of moderate to large bridge projects are now on the feasibility/design/construction phase. Steps have been taken to construct flyovers and footbridges in urban areas to aid commuter movement. On this backdrop, there exists a need to update the knowledgebase of the academicians, designers and construction industry of the country working in the field of bridge engineering by exchanging ideas and sharing the individual experiences. The seminar is expected to initiate the transfer of sustainable technologies regarding economic design, construction, use and maintenance of bridges in Bangladesh.

This proceeding contains papers contributed for the seminar by specialists from Japan and Bangladesh. The papers have been grouped into four topics of bridge engineering: Geotechnical aspects; Steel, composite bridges and advanced materials; Structural dynamics; and Instrumentation and monitoring. In order to enhance regional cooperation, the seminar aims to generate discussions on the necessity and format of a unified Bridge Code for Asian countries.

In recent years, every structural engineer in the world recognizes the importance of the international code, and is interested in the code such as ISO. We hope and trust that this seminar will be the first step to make the model code for bridges accepted in Bangladesh and Japan, and to lead to the Asian code.

We express our heartiest gratitude to Committee of Steel Structures, JSCE to initiate this program and for their active support without which this seminar could not have been possible. Also we take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Roads and Highways Department, the Jamuna Bridge Authority, the IEB and the Civil Engineering Division of IEB to extend their full support for this event. Finally it goes without saying that the sincere hard work put in by the contributing authors deserves our praise and gratitude.

Finally, we would like to refer to the sayings of famous scientist, Sir Isaac Newton, who lamented:

Men Build Too Many Walls Not Enough Bridges

We hope this seminar will not only talk about bridges but also be able to bring the two Societies JSCE and IEB closer and build a bridge of eternal friendship between the two peoples for a world of peace and stability. This may be a very small step towards this goal, but a certain one.

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