

EDITORIAL

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This issue is to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Soils and Foundations (S&F), which first went to print as “Soil and Foundation” in June 1960. The format of the Jubilee issue was discussed not only by the editorial committee, but also in a meeting of key contributors to S&F over the years and the past editors-in-chief of S&F. The consensus was that it should contain historical overviews of the development of S&F, a detailed focus on the geotechnical engineering aspects of the mega-projects in the field of civil engineering in Japan and summaries of the main areas of concern in geotechnical/environmental/earthquake engineering.

Part I is entitled “Soils and Foundations 1960–2010”, and includes an updated history of S&F, with a well-documented account of the research topics published in S&F over the last 50 years and also the statistical data on the circulation of the journal. A historical overview of the developments of S&F is given by Professor Kenji Ishihara. A wide spectrum of the geotechnical engineering aspects involved in the Trans-Tokyo Bay highway project, the second phase construction of the Kansai-International Airport, the Shinkansen and the foundations of the Akashi Strait Bridge are discussed in depth.

In Part II, entitled “Soils and Foundations—The Past, Present and Future”, we provide a personal perspective of geomaterial behavior, numerical methods, ground water, foundations, tunneling, earthquake engineering, slopes, ground improvements, geo-environment and performance-based design concept, with an overview of the work published in S&F.

All the articles in this issue are published as State-of-the-art Reports and were written at the request of editor. Each article was properly reviewed by four committee members.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the authors who contributed to this Jubilee issue for their painstaking work. The editorial board members devoted themselves to reviewing the articles and getting this to print in a relatively short period of time. There is no doubt in my mind that this issue is going to be considered an invaluable archive documenting the history of S&F.

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