

JAPAN

By Hisatoshi ITO
Secretary General for IAEG Japan National Group



1. Name of the National Group:

IAEG Japan National Group, in Japan Society of Engineering Geology (JSEG)

2. Name of Current Office Holders

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President for Japan Society of Engineering Geology: Yasuhiko WAKIZAKA

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4. Membership Information:

With Bulletin: 79, Without bulletin: 6, Associated members: 6

5. Activities during 2017-2018

2017

<April> Debrief Meeting of the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake

The 2016 Kumamoto earthquake of magnitude 7.3 occurred in April in the middle area of Kyusyu, southwest Japan. Seven terrible shocks continuously attacked in three days. JSEG formed a special investigation team consisting of about 40 members of engineering geologists just after the earthquake. The investigation team briefly presented the survey result and discussed about preparation for future disasters with local people on April 29, 2017. About 200 people participated in this meeting.

<July> Investigation team for Northern Kyusyu rainstorm Disaster

A JSEG Investigation team was organized for the Northern Kyushu rainstorm Disaster. Torrential rainfall occurred with a maximum hourly rainfall of 130 mm and a 280 mm rainfall in 3 hours in Northern Kyushu, July 5, 2017. This extreme heavy rain was caused by a linear rainfall belt along the energetic seasonable front. This should be due to extreme weather caused by climate change. About 300 landslides occurred in narrow area and in a short period, and debris flows with many destructive driftwoods attacked houses and people.

<October> The 4th Slope Tectonics Conference, Kyoto University

The 4th Slope Tectonics Conference was held at the Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University on October 14 to 18, 2017. The conference received 80 papers from fourteen countries and had animated discussions. The main aim of the conference is to interdisciplinary understand mass movements on slopes. Post conference, 3 days field trip was organized to visit the Kii Peninsula, where is underlain by accretionary complex and numerous numbers of deep-seated catastrophic landslides were induced by 2011 typhoon Talas.

<October> 2017 Annual Meeting of JSEG, in Okayama

JSEG held 2017 Annual Meeting in Okayama on Oct. 12 to 13, 2017. About 300 JSEG members participated in, and about 160 oral and poster presentations were performed. As a special lecture, "Research of the Tsunami sediments of the previous Nankai Trough Earthquake" was presented by Prof. Makoto Okamura, Kochi University.

<November> Excursion team for Nepal

Japan National Group participated the ARC-11 held on November 28 to 30, 2017 in Kathmandu, Nepal and the field excursion EX-5 on December 1 to 2, 2017. EX-5 was JSEG special 3-days excursion of geology and topography along the route from Kathmandu to Pokhara. Participants of this EX-5 were 36 members of 20 Japanese team. Participants were explained about geological background in this area and landslides induced by the 2015 Gorkha earthquake shock. The next day, a short trekking at Pokhara was held and the participants enjoyed a beautiful Himalayan view.

2018

<April> Meeting of the northern Kyushu Disaster 2017

The JSEG Investigation Team for Disaster Prevention made a report of the Northern Kyushu (West Japan) flood and debris flow disaster to mainly local people in April 28, 2018. About 200 people attended in this meeting, and over 60% out of them were general local people. They mentioned that they have improved their understanding for dangerous natural phenomena after the meeting. JSEG intends to continue and spread these engineering geological activities for disaster prevention.

<June> 60th Anniversary Symposium of JSEG

The JSEG held the 60th Anniversary Symposium on June 29 to 30, 2018 in Tokyo. The theme of this symposium was “**Disaster experiences during recent 10 years and message to future generation**”.

Increasing number of natural disasters caused by earthquake, extreme heavy rain, and volcanism etc. occurred in recent ten years in Japan. JSEG discussed our future actions and roles in accordance with recent activities and research results of JSEG members. We also organized one day excursion to learn about geological and topological features and how to mitigate urban disaster risks of Tokyo city.



Group photo of the participants

6. Publications

Six journals of the JSEG were published.

7. Plans for 2018-2019

(1) 2018 Annual Meeting of the JSEG will be held at Sapporo, Hokkaido (North Japan) on October, 2018.

(2) The JSEG and IAEG Japan National Group will encourage our members to participate in The 12th Asian Regional Conference of IAEG at Jeju Island, Korea in autumn, 2019.

(3) Planning of International Workshop of IAEG and ISRM

IAEG Japan National Group intends to hold an international workshop co-sponsored by IAEG and ISRM. ISRM held four international workshops of rock mechanics in volcanic areas from Portugal, 2002 to Italy, 2015. In these days volcanic phenomena are important from several aspects. This workshop will be held in 2020 or 2021 at Fukuoka University of two days discussion and two days field excursion in a large and active volcano Aso area in middle Kyushu.



Mount Aso explosive eruption in 2014