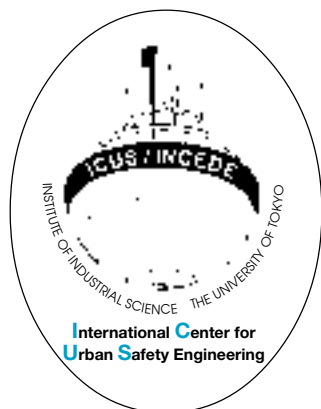

ICUS/INCEDE NEWSLETTER

International Center for Urban Safety Engineering



**Institute of Industrial Science
The University of Tokyo**

*VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1
APRIL - JUNE 2001*

TOWARDS SAFER URBAN CITIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

*By
Taketo UOMOTO*

I take pleasure in greeting you on behalf of the International Center for Urban Safety Engineering (ICUS) created at the Institute of Industrial Science of the University of Tokyo in April, 2001 with the objective of carrying out research and disseminating information related to different aspects related to urban safety engineering and creating a safe urban environment in the 21st Century. The Center was created after the International Center for Disaster-Mitigation Engineering (INCEDE) completed its ten-year term, during which it served as a major driving force in international cooperation in areas related to disaster mitigation engineering, disaster preparedness, and field surveys, especially in the aftermath of floods and earthquakes.

There is an urgent need to develop a more responsive system for urban safety that comprehensively encompasses areas such as, evaluation of urban infrastructure, management of disasters such as earthquakes or floods, and effective utilization of available information for preparedness. Besides seeking cooperation from researchers from

other countries, efforts are being made to involve the Japanese Government agencies, consultants and construction companies, and local bodies, in the research activities of the center.

The central objective of the International Center for Urban Safety Engineering (ICUS) is to develop new technologies for evaluation of safety and integrity of structures taking into account the deterioration of the materials used and changes in the required performance levels, in-service maintenance and management systems for structures to ensure the safety of urban infrastruc-



*Professor Taketo Uomoto
Director of ICUS/INCEDE*

ture in the event of natural disasters such as earthquake, flood, etc., long term implications of urbanization, and use of techniques such as Remote Sensing in creating a safe urban environment.

The following three groups have been created at the ICUS to promote research work in different related areas:

Sustainable Engineering Group for the development of new technologies for in-service maintenance and management systems for evaluation of structural safety, repair and rehabilitation measures.

Urban Safety and Disaster Mitigation Group for the development of management technologies to ensure the structural safety of urban infrastructure in the event of natural disasters such as earthquake, flood, etc., development and dissemination of information relating to prediction of disasters and their effects on social and economic activities.

Infrastructure Information Dynamics Group for the development and evaluation of technologies for monitoring information related to urban infrastructure. The group

will also work on applications of techniques such as Remote Sensing, Geographical Information System, Global Positioning System, Information network, space data analysis, etc. in urban safety.

Activities of the ICUS will be carried out using Grant-in-aid and other projects funded by the Departments of Education, Science and Technology, etc of the Government of Japan. Funding is also being sought from other sectors for specific projects. I would like to invite suggestions from you also and look forward to formulating joint research projects, which could then be processed for funding and execution. A workshop was held at Bangkok recently and an effort made to identify areas of common

areas between researchers at ICUS and the Asian Institute of Technology and other Universities in Thailand.

This newsletter also gives a brief background of the faculty and staff of the center at present. In addition to their responsibilities to ensure a smooth working of the center, the faculty members are also engaged in normal academic activities, including teaching and research. I hope that more manpower will be available to be able to expand the activities of the center.

In order to better understand the needs of the society, and provide publicity to the activities of the Centre, it is proposed to hold national and

international seminars, etc. and regularly update the website of the center, in addition to giving brief details in the Newsletter. I invite you to join our members' Network and participate in formulating new programmes.

Though there was a delay in getting this first newsletter off the ground, I hope to keep you informed of our activities through regular newsletters and updates on our website (<http://icus-incede.iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp>). The ICUS is fortunate to have inherited a strong international network of researchers and academicians in different parts of the world and I look forward to your cooperation in helping the center achieve its goals.

Introducing the staff of ICUS/INCEDE

The staff at the International Center for Urban Safety Engineering at present comprises of two Professors, two Associate Professors and two Research

Associates, besides supporting and administrative staff. There is also a provision to have three Visiting Professors and graduate students to work at the Center.

Dr. Sudhir Misra is currently a Visiting Professor at the Center from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India.



ICUS/INCEDE staff members

Sitting from left: Ms. Chiharu Murakami, Ms. Noriko Shiuchi, Prof. Taketo Uomoto, Ms. Akiko Nagashima, Ms. Kaoru Iwata
Standing from left: Dr. Shirou Ochi, Prof. Kimiro Meguro, Prof. Ryoza Ooka, Dr. Vasanthadevi Aravinthan, Prof. Yoshifumi Yasuoka, Dr. Dushmanta Dutta, Prof. Sudhir Misra

1st ICUS/INCEDE Open Lecture

ICUS organized the first Open Lecture May 22, 2001 at the Institute of Industrial Science of the University of Tokyo as the continuation of the series of Open Lectures initiated by INCEDE 10 years ago. The main objective of the initiation of the Open Lecture has been to share the knowledge and informa-

tion with general public directly. During the period of INCEDE, the major emphasis was to share the knowledge on natural disasters and understand what happens during and after hazards. With the intent of continuing this innovative method of sharing knowledge with people on issues of urban safety, ICUS

organized the first open lecture.

The open lecture was inaugurated by Prof. Taketo Uomoto, Director of ICUS. In his introductory remarks, Prof. Uomoto outlined the objectives and briefly discussed the current and future activities of the Center. He was followed by Prof. Ken Sudo, former Director of INCEDE, who shared his vision of ICUS future from his vast experience of work in INCEDE and UN for IDNDR activities. Following these presentations Prof. Yoshifumi Yasuoka, Dr. Kimiro Meguro and Dr. Ryoza Ooka, who are involved in the activities of the three main groups of ICUS, spoke on their present and planned research activities. Over 140 persons attended the Open Lecture.



Prof. Uomoto, Director of ICUS welcomes the audience.

(by D. Dutta)

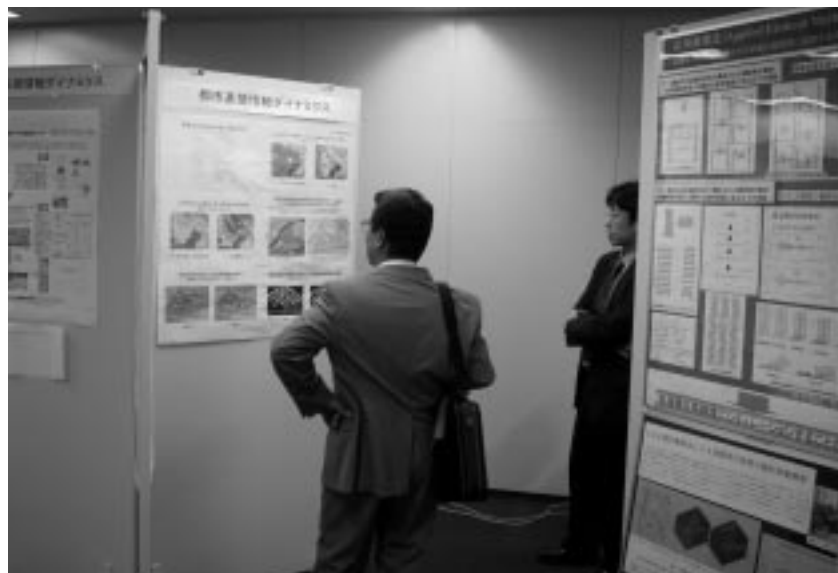
ICUS/INCEDE participated at the IIS Open House

Every year IIS organizes an Open House for two-day period in the first week of June. During these two-day period, all the laboratories and research centers of the institute display their activities to the visitors. On average about 5,000 people visit the institute for the Open House in two days, including people from various research organizations, industrial sectors, academic organizations from high school to university levels as well as Tokyo based international organizations. With great enthusiasm ICUS participated for the first time in the Open House of Institute of Industrial Science (IIS), the University of Tokyo during June 7-8, 2001.

ICUS divided its display booths in the Open House into four categories: general information; sustainable engineering; urban safety

and disaster mitigation and infrastructure information dynamics. The center demonstrated to the visitors some of the on-going research activities of three divisions of the center as well as the future

goals. ICUS members were encouraged by the interests of many visitors in the activities of the center and by their invaluable comments in various aspects of its planned activities.



A graduate student explains ICUS activities to a visitor.

Editor's Note

Urban safety has attracted a lot of attention in the recent years. Major concern has been expressed for a proper evaluation of the capability of existing infrastructure, and enhancing it whenever required. There is also a need to study possible application of developments in other fields such as GIS, Remote Sensing, Material Science and Engineering, Earthquake Engineering, etc. in Urban Safety Engineering. There is an urgent need to develop a responsive system that understands the needs of the society and work towards creating a safe urban environment.

The International Center for Urban Safety Engineering

(ICUS) has been created at the Institute of Industrial Science (IIS), University of Tokyo to serve as a nodal center for carrying out research and disseminating information in areas related to Urban Safety. This center, created after the International Centre for Disaster-Mitigation Engineering (INCEDE) had completed its ten-year term, has embarked on an ambitious programme to involve people from different walks of life in research related to different aspects of Urban Safety. For example, efforts are being made to involve people in financial and social sectors in research related to urban disaster and safety.

It has been decided that the center will endeavour to expand the

activities of the INCEDE and seek active cooperation and support from the network members. The Newsletter that you are now reading is the first issue from the new center. While wishing you and your family the very best for the New Year, I take this opportunity to request you to actively participate in formulating future research activities of the center. You may send in your comments and suggestions by post or email. Of course, you are most welcome to drop in and meet us in person!!

With your cooperation, we hope to create a niche for the center in the emerging area of Urban-Safety Engineering.

(K. Meguro)

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