May 2017 No.77
Japanese Infrastructure Newsletter

IDI QUARTERLY

Infrastructure Development Institute—JAPAN

English site　:https://www.uit.gr.jp/info-portal/en/
Japanese site:https://www.uit.gr.jp/info-portal/

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Infrastructure Development Institute – Japan (IDI)
Suido-cho Bldg, 3-1, Suido-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 162-0811, JAPAN
Tel: +81-3-5227-4107 Fax: +81-3-5227-4109 E-Mail: idi17@idi.or.jp Website: http://www.idi.or.jp/english/00index.htm

Web site for urban infrastructure technologies in Japan

English site :https://www.uit.gr.jp/info-portal/en/
Japanese site :https://www.uit.gr.jp/info-portal/

1. Introduction

Japan is an island country with an elongated shape extending in a north-south direction, and precipitous geological formations. Its population is concentrated primarily in river basins and plains. It is in those limited areas where Japan's major cities have developed. Japan is also an earthquake-prone country. We cannot ignore the risk of earthquakes and other disasters in our urban areas. We have received warm support and assistance from countries all over the world in the aftermath of natural disasters such as the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Great Hanshin Earthquake.

Japanese cities were built by effectively utilizing limited areas with emphasis on safety from disasters. At the same time, consideration was given to ensuring that large numbers of people can efficiently and comfortably live and pursue activities in such cities.

For this purpose, various urban infrastructure technologies are utilized in the improvement and maintenance of urban infrastructure and urban development. These technologies cover a broad range of applications from individual technologies for specific facilities, etc., to planning, coordination and management technologies for efficient construction and managing cities in confined areas.

Tokyo will be hosting the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Japan will become the focus of global interest and attention, and people from all over the world will visit our country. For this reason, the Government of Japan is engaging in efforts to boost inbound and outbound policy. Similar efforts are being made in the sector of urban development as well, and we are confident that in this process, we can sufficiently harness our urban infrastructure technologies to provide support for professionals and business people who have chosen Japan as the base of their activities in Asia and experts engaged in urban development in their respective countries.

In order to achieve this goal, this website will serve as a portal developed through cooperation between the City Bureau of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) of Japan and companies and organizations. By providing information on a diverse range of urban infrastructure technologies in a manner that facilitates easy access for relevant parties involved in urban development overseas, and displaying such information on the map, this site aims to enable visitors to Japan to experience first-hand our infrastructure and thus gain an understanding of our urban technologies, including intangible aspects.

We hope that by accessing this website and visiting our country, you will deepen your understanding of Japan's cities and the technologies that support them.

<Site Operator>

The Urban Infrastructure & Technology Promotion Council

2. Site Overview

The site provides two main contents.

(i) *Urban Infrastructure Technologies* page

For all people (experts) engaged in urban development, provide a kind of whole catalog of technologies, products, solutions etc. offered by Japanese companies.

(ii) *Town Walk (Tokyo, Osaka)* page

Mainly for general public, presents cases of urban development and urban infrastructure (transportation, energy, etc.) utilizing urban infrastructure technologies mapped on Tokyo, Osaka, and surrounding areas.

Figure 3 shows English site's top page.

2.1 Urban infrastructure technologies page

URL :

https://www.uit.gr.jp/info-portal/en/urban-infrastructure-technologies/

This page presents the technologies, products, etc. of the member companies in seven fields of activities (themes).

<Seven themes>

Theme I Planning and administration

Theme II Improvement of disaster prevention

Theme III Reduction of the burden on the environment

Theme IV Smooth movement

Theme V Universal design

Theme VI Sophisticated urban space

Theme VII Maintenance and management

In addition, those of technologies, products, etc. presented in those theme-focused pages which have already been introduced in Tokyo, Osaka, and surrounding areas are linked with relevant map in the Town walk page. Furthermore, you can refine your search by technology names to show the results.

(As of April 2017, a total of 25 technologies are posted in English site and a total of 124 technologies in Japanese site)

2.2 Town walk page

URL:

https://www.uit.gr.jp/info-portal/category/tokyo-en/

・・・Town Walk(Tokyo)

Figure 1 Town Walk (Tokyo) (as of May 2017)

URL:

https://www.uit.gr.jp/info-portal/category/osaka-en/

・・・Town Walk(Osaka)

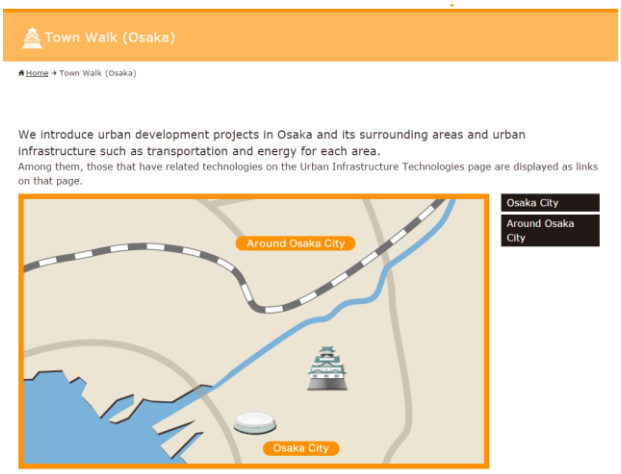

Figure 2 Town Walk (Osaka) (as of May 2017)

This page showcases the introduction of urban development and urban infrastructure technologies, products, etc. presented above for each of Tokyo, Osaka, and surrounding areas.

If there are any relevant technical pages, they are linked to from the Town Walk pages.

Further, to help tablet and smart phone users know their locational relationship with the target building, etc. the map displays the location you are currently at (as of April 2017, 32 cases posted in English site and 137 cases in Japanese site).

Figure 3 English site's top page (as of May 2017)

3. Tasks Ahead

For the time being, we plan to operate this site till 2020. The first task we need to tackle to do so is to raise public awareness of this site, and various activities are under way including presentation of the site to stakeholders.

Further, we have recently launched our Facebook page

(https://www.facebook.com/uit.portal/) and have started to provide relevant information, including comments of staff members fresh from their town walk and other hot topics. So don't miss to visit and check it out our Facebook page, too. All comments are welcome, including from visitors abroad. (Facebook page and Japanese site can be viewed in English through browser translation)

Photo 1 Facebook pages: Cover Photo

Although the contents posted in English site are still fairly less than Japanese site, we plan to increase these contents as the member companies enhance their pages in the years to come.

The Urban Infrastructure & Technology Promotion Council
Secretariat for Urban Infrastructure Technologies Website
Toshiro Harada(Mr) of Institute for Future Urban Development

Contact :
E-Mail: info-portal[at]uit.gr.jp
FAX: +81-3-5261-5629

About IDI and IDI-quarterly

Infrastructure Development Institute (IDI)-Japan is a general incorporated association operating under the guidance of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japanese Government.
IDI provides consulting services for mobilizing International Assistance to developing countries, promoting international exchange of information and human resources, and supporting globalization of project implementation systems targeting both developed and developing countries in the field of infrastructure.

IDI has been publishing the free quarterly journal "IDI Quarterly" since1996 for the purpose of introducing information relating to public works and construction technologies developed in Japan to foreign countries. We have distributed the journal to administration officials in more than 90 countries around the world by e-mail.

We also appreciate it very much if you would provide new project information from your country. If you have a manuscript, please send it to us by E-mail so we may include it as an article in our journal IDI-Quarterly. Please refer to an example article "Water Pipeline Projects" from Mongolia. (See IDI Quarterly No.52) and "Manipulator Controlled Decontamination of Surfaces in Nuclear Power Plants" (See IDI Quarterly No.61).
If you are interested, send manuscripts to us following the instructions below.

Instructions for contributors:

- Texts must be written in English within 800 words.
- MS-WORD.docx or text.txt files are acceptable.
- Figures and photos should be supplied in an electric format.
- All manuscripts will undergo some editorial modification.
- The editor reserves the right not to publish manuscripts that are not appropriate for this journal.
- Manuscript fee will not be paid.
- Please send manuscript files to "idi17@idi.or.jp" by e-mail.