PREFACE

Disasters related to natural phenomena are commonplace in nowadays living society. In spite of several cases occurring historically around the world and massive information about natural disasters transmitted by mass communication, many people live and will continue living in risk areas. Natural disasters can be viewed as the most powerful weapon to economic damages and fatalities. Just for comparison more than 140,000 people were killed when an atomic bomb hit Hiroshima. The earthquake which hit Haiti on January 12, 2010, led to over 200,000 deaths.

Since the beginnings, human race has been struggling against the forces of the nature. People have been increasing their notion about the risks of living in potential dangerous zones of the planet due to earthquakes and local terrains of specific conditions prone to landslides. Continuous development on knowledge, science and technology has permitted societies to reduce its vulnerability to different types of hazardous processes. In the course of time, many cases of success of technological achievements, such as earthquake prone construction models, have been refined and its application globally diffused by the mobilization of the technical and scientific communities. Communication of science and technological achievements has been one of the most important activities to enhance our capacity of reduce the vulnerability to natural disasters.

International Journal of Erosion Control Engineering has given Brazilian technical community the chance to present a brief view of sediment disasters in our nation. This special issue is titled “Sediment-related disasters and risk management in Brazil” and can be understood as one of the results of the Project for Strengthening National Strategy of Integrated Natural Disaster Risk Management, so called as GIDES Project by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) which was the knowledge and technological transfer done between Japan and Brazil during the 4 years long (2013 – 2017) bilateral project. Aiming to prepare the readers I would like to make some comments regarding the content of the first part of this special issue.

The first article, presented as an invited paper, is a true example of the importance of technological transfer. It is related to the unique case of Japanese model Sabo Works executed in Brazil. This technical achievement was also a product of a former JICA project conducted in the Serra do Mar region in São Paulo State in the end of 1980 s by summing the efforts of Brazilian and Japanese experts at that time.

After the brief introduction of the GIDES Project by Della Giustina, who was the most-involved coordinator of the project, Di Gregorio et al. presents an initial view of GIDES Project concerning to monitoring and warning systems.

Lima et al. and Pozzobon et al. are common case studies concerning translational landslides in Brazilian territory.

Picanço et al. and Kobiyama et al. present some aspects of debris flow studies in Brazil with the focus respectively on process investigation and knowledge transfer to increase risk perception of common people.

Fortunately, there were many submissions from the Brazilian technical community to the call for papers of this special issue. These 7 papers are a part of the many and are the first group of articles which have finished reviewing processes earlier. I hope that the next volume of the special issue which would include the rest of the submitted papers would be presented soon.

Agostinho Tadashi Ogura
Editor in Chief for the special issue

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