

Professor Kenji ISHIHARA

2010 Buchanan Lecture

"Forensic Diagnosis for Site Specific Ground Condition in Deep Excavation of Subway Constructions".



Professor Kenji Ishihara graduated from the University of Tokyo in 1957. After a period of research at the University of Illinois under the advice of Professor R.B. Peck, he returned to the post of Associate Professor at the University of Tokyo in 1977 where he soon became Professor of Civil Engineering and remained at the University of Tokyo for 40 years. During this time he was active in the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering (ISSMFE). He was particularly effective in advancing the work of Technical Committee TC4 – Earthquake Geotechnical Engineering and in establishing the new discipline of earthquake geotechnology. His work with ISSMFE culminated in his appointment as President of the Society for the term 1997-2001. On his retirement from the University of Tokyo in 1995 he took up the post of Professor of Geotechnical Engineering at the Tokyo University of Science and then at Chuo University in 2001.

Professor Ishihara was the 1993 Rankine Lecturer on the topic of “Liquefaction and Flow Failures During Earthquakes” and the Terzaghi orator at the 14th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering in Hamburg in 1997. He was the recipient of the H.B. Seed Medal in 1998 from A.S.C.E. and delivered several other eponymous lectureships. He received the Japan Academy prize in 2000 and was elected in 2010 to the United States Academy of Engineering as a Foreign Associate. In 1996, he published his textbook “Soil Behaviour in Earthquake Geotechnics” (Oxford University Press), which summarizes his life’s work. This book was translated in Russian in 2006.