

## **Tribute to Professor Keiichi Fujita by ISSMGE Technical Committee 204 (formerly 28) on Underground Construction in Soft Ground**

All members of TC 204 are very saddened to learn of the passing away of Professor Keiichi Fujita on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010. He was a very distinguished engineer who achieved an enormous amount in his very active and highly successful career. He was not only an expert on tunnelling and deep excavations, but also on piled foundations and many other aspects of geotechnical engineering. He was the author of many State-of-the-Art reports and delivered many Keynote Lectures at ISSMGE conferences. Much has been achieved by ISSMGE's Technical Committee 204 on Underground Construction in Soft Ground (formerly TC28) and this is in large part due to the inspirational leadership of Professor Fujita. In 1994, under his leadership as Chairman, Professor K. Fujita organized a one-day International Symposium in New Delhi – just before the 13th ICSMGE. This was an outstanding success, bringing together specialists in underground construction from many countries.

Following the success of Professor Fujita's initiative, it was decided to initiate a series of two-day International Symposia on Geotechnical Aspects of Underground Construction in Soft Ground, with a third day devoted to technical site visits to underground construction projects. These International Symposia have been held every three years over the past 10 years as follows:

1996 London  
1999 Tokyo  
2002 Toulouse  
2005 Amsterdam  
2008 Shanghai

For each of these International Symposia there has been a wealth of information published in the Proceedings, with many hundreds of papers published on a wide variety of underground construction topics of major technical interest, mainly on case histories and new research. Professor Fujita was the inspiration for these highly successful International Symposia, and we all owe him a great debt of gratitude.

At the next International Symposium in May 2011 to be held in Rome, we will fondly remember Professor Fujita as the father of TC28 and a great inspiration to us all. It will be proposed that a prestigious lecture in memory of Professor Fujita, to be named the '**Keiichi Fujita Lecture**', will be delivered at each subsequent International Symposium on Geotechnical Aspects of Underground Construction in Soft Ground. The 'Keiichi Fujita Lecture' will be a lasting tribute to Professor Fujita's remarkable contributions.

Professor Fujita's wisdom and experience, combined with extraordinary energy and a great sense of humour, will be sorely missed. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Mrs Fujita and her family.

Professor Robert Mair  
Cambridge University

4<sup>th</sup> September 2010