On the mechanisms of bridge damages by tsunami on March 11, 2011

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The 2011 earthquake off the Pacific coast of Tohoku was a magnitude 9.0 undersea megathrust earthquake off the coast of Japan that occurred on March 11, 2011. It was the most powerful known earthquake ever to have hit Japan, and the fifth most powerful earthquake in the world since 1900. The earthquake triggered huge tsunami waves which led to devastating damages in the coastal areas. This presentation focuses on the bridge damages, based on the field investigation carried out three months after the earthquake.

Prof. Matsumoto will also use the opportunity of the seminar to briefly introduce the International Program at the University of Hokkaido.

Dr. Takashi Matsumoto is currently an associate professor of Division of Engineering and Policy for Sustainable Environment at Hokkaido University, Japan. He graduated from Department of Civil Engineering at University of Tokyo, Japan in 1992, and he received Ph.D. in Civil Engineering at University of Michigan, USA in 1998. His research interest is in the maintenance of bridges and structures utilizing fracture mechanics and micromechanics. Especially, his focus is on the theoretical modeling of fracture and fatigue mechanisms of composite materials and structures. Presently, he is visiting the Czech Technical University as a guest lecturer in the Erasmus Mundus program, Advanced Masters in Structural Analysis of Monuments and Historical Constructions.