



Yasu and Brian Greene on the 2024 AEG field course bus trip to Conowingo Dam in Maryland.

IN MEMORIAM

Yasuhito Sasaki

AEG International Member and Founding Member of IAEG's Dams & Levees Commission-43 (DLC)

By Dr. Visty P. Dalal, DLC President

In October 2025, the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG) approved the proposal from AEG's Dams & Levees Technical Working Group (DLTWG) to form a new Dams & Levees Commission-43 (DLC) to foster collaboration between engineering geologists across the world in the dams and levees arena. DLC's work benefits the profession and public safety by sharing knowledge through cross-institutional and cross-disciplinary networks throughout the world.

IAEG installed Drs. Visty Dalal and Brian Greene as the DLC president and secretary general, respectively, as well as welcomed the DLC founding members from the Japan Society of Engineering Geology (JSEG), Mr. Yasuhito Sasaki, Ms. Yukari Mitani, and Mr. Hiroyuki Watatani, as Regional Members from Japan. Unfortunately, Mr. Sasaki (aka, "Yasu") passed away on March 22, 2026, at the young age of 62, leaving behind his wife and children.

In his short time on Earth, Yasu was an accomplished and distinguished engineering geologist who proudly represented Japan. Initially in his career, he was involved in numerous civil engineering projects, including dams, roads, and tunnels, focusing on geological evaluation and risk management. He was

affiliated with the Geology & Geotechnical Engineering Research Group, which he joined as a senior researcher, later becoming the director of geological research. In April 2021, he served as executive director of the Public Works Research Institute, at the National Research and Development Agency. His last position, starting in July 2023, was senior advisor, Japan Dam Engineering Center. Yasu received several awards from the Japan Society of Engineering Geology, the Japan Society of Civil Engineers, and the National Federation of Geological Survey Associations, among others.

Yasu attended AEG's past three annual meetings in Portland, Oregon; Philadelphia; and Chicago. He attended the Portland annual meeting by himself and was so impressed by the activities and slew of speakers that at the Philadelphia meeting, he brought several of his senior colleagues, who presented their research at the Dams & Levees Symposium, along with setting up JSEG's booth to interact with AEG members. He was looking forward to the Chattanooga meeting; unfortunately, we will miss his presence there. In October 2025, Yasu arranged the JSEG-AEG Virtual Workshop for dams and levees topics, which was attended by DLTWG members.

DLC misses the enthusiasm and active participation of Yasu at its meetings and in technical collaboration.