

JSPS FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE

FELLOW: Dr Panagiotis Angeloudis
TITLE: Lecturer in Urban Engineering
AFFILIATION: Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Imperial College London
HOST: Prof Eiichi Taniguchi
INSTITUTION: Department of Urban Management, Kyoto University
FELLOWSHIP: Short Term Postdoctoral Fellowship
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With its densely packed mega-cities and status as one of the most seismically active spots in the world, disaster preparedness is not only a priority in Japan, but indeed, a way of life. As a result of the shocking aftermath of the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake still in the headlines and public conscience, the Japanese academic community in recent years has been undertaking research in this field with renewed vigour, which I got to experience first-hand during my short visit.

My focus during my time in Kyoto University was to develop a new infrastructure resilience modelling framework that could be used to assess the behaviour of interconnected infrastructure networks that are exposed to external disruptions. The advice and involvement of my hosts in this project was invaluable, while I also had the opportunity to receive input from leading figures from the industry that helped me shape the methodology that I developed.

While in Kyoto, I had the unique opportunity to be exposed to a significantly different academic environment, with different structures and customs than those that I had experienced before. I used the generous travelling budget offered by JSPS to visit other leading institutions, such as Tōhoku University in Sendai and Tokyo Tech, where in both occasions I was welcomed with one-day workshops where I presented the outcomes of our research and was provided with thorough overviews of recent and ongoing work by local academics.

One of the most exciting outcomes of my visit, is that despite it has now concluded I will continue to collaborate actively with my ex-hosts as part of an EU-Japan collaborative project where the modelling technique we developed will be part of a methodological toolbox to be used to assess the resilience of transport infrastructure against earthquakes.

