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Ikuo Towhata received his B.E, M.E. and Doctor of Engineering from the University of Tokyo in 1977, 1979 and 1982 respectively. He has taught at the University of British Columbia, the Asian Institute of Technology, and Chulalongkom University in Bangkok as well as the University of Tokyo, where he is presently a Professor of Civil Engineering.

In addition to authoring one book, “Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering”, Towhata has presented numerous invited lectures and has served on a number of editing boards and committees for professional journals internationally. He holds membership in the Japanese Geotechnical Society, the Southeast Asian Geotechnical Society, the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, the Japan Society of Civil Engineers (Fellow), the Japan Association for Earthquake Engineering and the Japan Landslide Society, and served on the board of directors for the Japanese Society of Geotechnical Engineering (1999-2002, 2005-2008), the Japan Association for Earthquake Engineering (2004-2006) and the Japan Landslide Society (2004-2008).

Towhata has received many awards from 1985 to present, including several “best paper” awards and the Shamsher Prakash Research Award in 1999. His fields of major interest include deformation characteristics of cohesionless soils, dynamic analysis of earth structures during earthquakes, permanent displacement of ground caused by seismic liquefaction, soil improvement by densification and grouting, stability of seabed in static and dynamic manners, thermal effects on mechanical behavior of clays, microscopic observation of granular behavior of sand subjected to shear, dynamics of landslide and debris flow, mechanical properties of municipal waste ground and seismic performance-based design of geotechnical structures.