

Professor Dr. Norikazu Shimizu was born in 1956 in Kyoto, Japan. He is a professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Yamaguchi University. He is a past President of the Japanese Society for Rock Mechanics and currently serves as a Vice President at Large of the International Society for Rock Mechanics.

His main research topics are "developments of systems for monitoring displacements using modern technologies", "field measurements and back analysis for tunnels, underground caverns and slopes", "numerical modeling in Geotechnical Engineering", and "underground space design using both mechanics and psychology". He has been concerned with many rock mechanics projects for the construction and maintenance of tunnels, underground powerhouses, oil storage caverns, rock slopes, landslides, dams, and so on. Prof. Shimizu developed and published the ISRM Suggested Method for monitoring rock displacements using GPS.

Last year, he received the Japan Prime Minister's Prize for Distinguish Contributor of Disaster Prevention 2017. He also received the Space Development and Utilization Grand Prizes by Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (2016), a Commendation for Contribution to Regional Education by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (2012), the Outstanding Promotion Award of Science and Technology by Government of Yamaguchi Prefecture (2007), and the Outstanding Paper/Technical Awards from Japan Society of Civil Engineers, Japanese Society for Rock Mechanics, Electric Power Civil Engineering Association, and Japan Society of Dam Engineering.