



# IISEE Newsletter



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International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering BRI Japan

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## 21 Participants Completed the 56th One-Year Training Course

*By Mr. Takashi YAMASHITA, Head of IISEE Administration Division, IISEE*



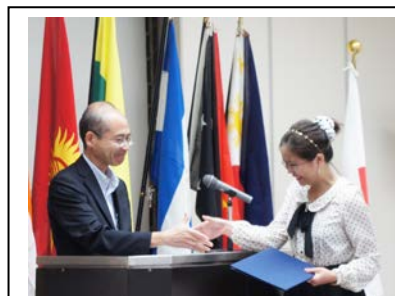
Closing Ceremony

The IISEE Closing Ceremony for the 2015-2016 Training Courses on Seismology, Earthquake Engineering and Tsunami Disaster Mitigation was held at the BRI Hall from 11 to 12 on Tuesday, September 13.

The training course began at the University of Tokyo in 1960. The Building Research Institute took over the program from 1962 after the negotiation by ministries concerned.



President of BRI, Dr. Sakamoto



Ms. Arianne Gail Saluta RIVERA from Philippines

Almost 45 people including 21 training participants came together and celebrated the ceremony. As it was the joint ceremony between JICA and BRI/IISEE, Mr. Katsuhiko HAGA, Director General of JICA Tsukuba International Center and Dr. Yuzo SAKAMOTO, President of BRI made their congratulatory remarks first. After them, Dr. Sunohara, Professor of National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) extended his congratulations to the participants. The GRIPS

## Earthquakes

The 2011 off the Pacific coast of Tohoku Earthquake

Reports of Recent Earthquakes

Utsu Catalog

Earthquake Catalog



## Call for Papers

IISEE Bulletin is now accepting submissions of papers for the seismology, earthquake engineering, and tsunami. Developing countries are targeted, but are not limited.

Your original papers will be reviewed by the editorial members and some experts.

NO submission fee is need.

Try to challenge!

is the joint partner of the master degree program.

Following the speeches, participants received the graduation certificates and diplomas.

Then three of the participants were bestowed the Best Research Awards by GRIPS and IISEE in celebration of their high research capability and scientific level in their master theses.

They are Ms. Arianne Gail Saluta RIVERA from Philippines, Mr. Mohamed Abdelrasoul



Mr. Abhishek Gopal from India

Ahmed SHAHEEN from Egypt and Mr. Greyving Jose ARUGUELLO MIRANDA from Nicaragua.

Three participants won the IISEE Director's Award; Mr. Amar BENFEDDA from Algeria, Mr. Abhishek GOPAL from India and Mr. Ashish GUPTA from India.



Mr. Ashish Gupta from India

This award is conferred to the participants in recognition of their accomplished the outstanding achievement of the IISEE training program.

As a closure of the ceremony, Mr. Manuel Arturo SALAZAR NAVIDAD from El Salvador represented the entire participants and made a speech in response. (Please see P4-5)

## Courtesy Call on the MLIT Minister

*By Mr. Takashi YAMASHITA, Head of IISEE Administration Division, IISEE*



21 Participants made a courtesy call on Mr. Ishii, Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, 2016

On September 12, 2015-2016 training participants paid a courtesy visit to Mr. Keiichi Ishii, Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. They met in the Minister's room of the ministry headquarters.

Through huge earthquakes in Japan nowadays, Minister Ishii emphasized that expert of earthquake become important, and further disaster prevention necessity is recognized.

Through this training course, he encouraged them to deepen partnership with experts and to become a leader of disaster mitigation in their countries.

Mr. Abhishek GOPAL from India expressed his gratitude to the Minister and made a speech on behalf of the participants.

Ms. Arianne Gail Saluta RIVERA from Philippines, Mr. Mohamed Abdelrasoul Ahmed SHAHEEN from Egypt and Mr. Greyving Jose ARUGUELLO MIRANDA from Nicaragua introduced their studies.

By courtesy of the Minister Ishii, participants spent almost 20 minutes in his office and lastly he shook hands with the participants one by one.



Enjoy, Now

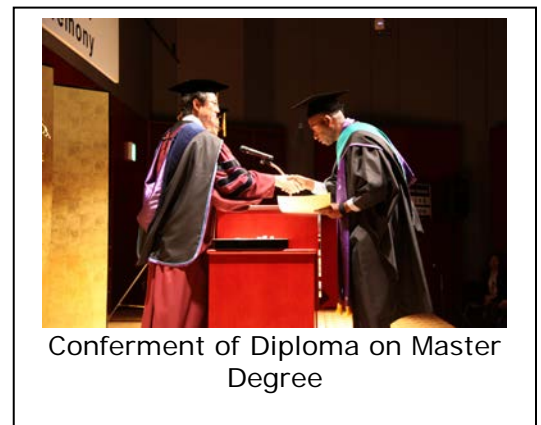
## GRIPS Graduation Ceremony

*By Mr. Takashi YAMASHITA, Head of IISEE Administration Division, IISEE*

With the collaboration of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), IISEE participants are awarded the degrees of Master of Disaster Management when they successfully complete one-year training course.

Fortunately, all the 2015-2016 training course participants passed the GRIPS' evaluation criteria and assessment. On September 14, the Graduation Ceremony was held in GRIPS Sokairou Hall. 195 doctoral and master program graduates received their diplomas.

The number of the graduates of the Disaster Management Policy Program was 34 including the IISEE participants. Ms. Arianne Gail Saluta RIVERA from Philippines was awarded her diploma at first and her colleagues followed.



Conferment of Diploma on Master Degree

After the ceremony, graduates and people concerned came together the reception. Every participant looked to be happy to have their diplomas on master degree. It was surely the happy day for the IISEE participants. Lastly, IISEE extend our great appreciation to the people who support us. Thank you very much.

## Contact Us

The IISEE Newsletter is intended to act as a go-between for IISEE and ex-participants.

We encourage you to contribute a report and an article to this newsletter. Please let us know your current activities in your countries.

We also welcome your co-workers and friends to register our mailing list.

[iiseenews@kenken.go.jp](mailto:iiseenews@kenken.go.jp)  
<http://iisee.kenken.go.jp>

## Back Numbers

<http://iisee.kenken.go.jp/nldb/>



Graduation Ceremony at GRIPS

## Address in Reply on Behalf of All the Participants

*By Mr. Manuel Arturo SALAZAR NAVIDAD from El Salvador*



Dr. Yuzo SAKAMOTO, President of Building Research Institute. Dr. Toshiaki YOKOI, Director of International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering. Dr. Hiroki SUNOHARA, Program Director of the Disaster Management Policy Program of National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies. Mr. Katsuhiko HAGA, General Director of JICA Tsukuba International Center, Ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

I would like to start saying thank you for giving me the extraordinary honor to say these closing words on behalf of all my colleagues and friends of the Seismology, Earthquake Engineering and Tsunami Disaster Mitigation Course 2015-2016. I feel like it was yesterday when we

came to Japan and we were celebrated at the opening ceremony. Certainly, most of us were very nervous because we were just at the beginning of a new challenge in our lives, which is understandable as we, human beings, normally feel fear against the unknown, against those things that are completely new to us. However, the capacity to overcome that fear is what makes us better people and better professionals every day.

During this period we have had the privilege to learn from the amazing Japanese people, who kindly opened the doors of their knowledge and culture to us. We could learn about important fields related to science and technology that will definitely bring improvements to our developing countries. On the other hand, we also have learned many valuable and admirable qualities of the

Japanese culture. Among the many qualities that Japanese people have, I want to focus on their hard work and solidarity, using a Japanese quote, "Dōryoku ni masaru tensai nashi", which means in English, "There is no genius that bests hard work". These two qualities have led the Japanese people to keep united and to successfully overcome even the worst disasters that struck the country in the past. That is what makes Japan a great paradigm for our countries to follow.

I would also like to mention a brief history today which I always try to apply to my daily life. *It is about a boy who went to the circus to see some wild animals. He was very scared and surprised when he noticed that the biggest and strongest animal in the circus, an elephant, had only a rope tied to a weak and insignificant wooden stake buried in the ground, whereas, other weaker and smaller wild animals were locked in very resistant cages to prevent from attacking visitors. A man that belonged to the circus explained to the boy, saying "when elephants are small, they are tied to very strong pole. That way, due to their small size and strength, it is impossible for them to get free. Therefore, after trying many times, the elephants give up and they accept "the reality" that they will not be able to get free in their lives."* If we analyze this analogy, many similar situations happen in our daily lives. For most of the time our mental barriers limit ourselves to fulfill our goals. Or sometimes, we let the people tell us that we cannot do anything. However, it is up to us if we will try it one more time or if we will give it up forever (like the elephant). It is important to remember that "no matter if you say I can or I cannot, the both ways are right to you". There is only one person who you have to believe in to succeed. That person is you, no one else.

Finally, I want to conclude this speech by expressing our sincere gratitude to IISEE, BRI, JICA and GRIPS for all the knowledge, experiences and trust that have been shared with us during this year. To all my colleagues and friends, thank you for their invaluable support and friendship. Congratulations on this new goal achieved and the best lucks in the new stage of your lives that you are about to start when you return to your countries. Thank you.

Manuel SALAZAR

*Congratulations!*

