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## Reports on Tohoku and Niigata Study Trip

*(1) By Mr. Ibrahim Gamal Ibrahim ZAHRA (Egypt, Seismology Course)*



In As H. G. Wells once said, "adapt or perish, now as ever is nature inexorable imperative," that was our impression during our study trip to Miyagi and Niigata prefectures. During 5 days of a study trip to the North and the West we experienced how the Japanese people is ready to coexist with disasters and how they plan to get along with such a harsh environment.

In Miyagi, we visited places affected by 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. However devastating it was, it is admirable to watch how each city and town has almost recovered and how resilience is the society.

During our small stay in Niigata, which suffered from a horrible Chuetsu earthquake in 2004, we visited Yamakoshi town. We were touched by its beautiful nature and learned how they badly suffered from landslides after the Chuetsu earthquake. We also learned about heavy damage in Kawaguchi town near the epicenter of the earthquake. It was very important to learn how the people cooperated and became very close to pass through that severe damage.

I believe the most important lessons were the importance of collaboration and the need to accept help from others in addition to how to pass the memories of what happened to the next generations so that they can learn about what happened and get ready. We all hope that we can convey such experience and lessons to our countries and achieve such level of resilience.

*(2) By Mr. Bhenz RODRIGUEZ (Philippines, Tsunami Disaster Mitigation Course)*



The International Institute for Seismology and Earthquake Engineering (IISEE) – Building Research Institute (BRI) conducted a five days study trip in the affected areas of the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake from November 06 – 10, 2017. The participants were divided into two groups, one was composed of the Seismology and Earthquake Engineering students while the other group in which I belong was the Tsunami Disaster Mitigation course. Our group was able to visit some of the coastal cities such as Sendai, Ishinomaki, Kesenuma, Rikuzen-

## 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!!



Takata, Ofunato, Kamaishi and Miyako.

Going to these areas, it made me realize that the tsunami hazard is something that a country needs to give a higher degree of emphasis. By simply looking at each watermarks and traces of tsunami waves in different area, I thought "what would be the landscape if same event happens in our country?" It can be more devastating especially if the government would not plan properly.

This study trip helped me to understand the depth of my work in the Philippines. Construction of seawalls and embankments as well as the information from the historical events will help a certain area be resilient in such catastrophic event. I was really amazed about how Japan was able to ascend and recover from this risk. Other tsunami prone countries can learn from how Japan faced the life after this great tsunami.

*(3)By Ms. Rizalyn Centino ILUMIN (Philippines, Earthquake Engineering Course)*



The fruitful 5 days study trip in Tohoku Region and Niigata Prefecture gave us vast information and I thank all the organizers behind this event.

The educational tour focused on the two previous major disasters which are the 2004 Mid Niigata Prefecture Earthquake and 2011 Off the Pacific Coast of Tohoku Earthquake. Hard lessons learned from these catastrophes transformed Japan as the leading nation in disaster management preparedness. The 10-year reconstruction program with 32 Trillion Yen total budget reveals their government's sincerity and outstanding decision making. I learned that an effective solution in persuading the affected families to voluntarily occupy the relocation sites was to provide livelihoods, hospitals, schools and other recreational amenities and not just concentrate on relocation houses alone.

Moreover, site visits to the Temples greatly helped us understand and embrace the Japanese culture and traditions. As I have learned, we must build better structures before disastrous events occur.

*(4)By Mr. Jorge Alberto Stanley FLORES GONZALEZ (El Salvador, Earthquake Engineering Course)*



I know that Japan is one of the countries in the world most prepared and used to earthquakes, but the one as intense as that took place on March 11, 2011 accompanied by tsunami that devastated everything in its path was beyond what they have had. However, after the earthquake the people of Japan joined together, to help, to encourage, and to tell themselves "let's not give up"

During the study trip I had the opportunity to see the terrible images on television and the spot in the northeast coast of Japan where the earthquake and tsunami with my own eyes. We were able to learn not only what happened at that time, but how fast the Japanese people reconstructed their infrastructure with the same ability to stand up together.

What got my attention was the importance of urban planning which plays an important role when it comes to prevention, because good planning can reduce many losses.

Another remarkable action is that they are in a continuous learning to create more prevention measures and diffusing the citizens about prevention methods and counter measures that makes people more resilient for the upcoming disasters, so they can prevent more catastrophes.

## Photos of Tohoku and Niigata Study Trip



Enjoy, Now



## 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.

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

## Fire Drill

*By Ms. Riho Aoki, Staff member, IISEE*

Building Research Institute had a Fire Drill which made the assumption that fire occurred inside of the building on November 21st. According to instructions of announcement and evacuation personnel, staffs took the refuge in predetermined spot where was located outside. We also had Fire Extinguishing Drill by using fire extinguishers, and some training participants of IISEE joined it.



Fire Extinguishing Drill

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