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Latin American Earthquake Engineering Course

By Dr. Toshiaki Yokoi & Mr. Mizuo Inukai of IISEE

Latin America, one of the earthquake prone regions, has been severely devastated by strong jolting many times during its history, lagging behind in dissemination of earthquake resistant structural technology.

Building Research Institute of Japan has been collaborating on the JICA technical cooperation projects and carrying out the field of earthquake engineering, in Mexico, Peru, Chile, El Salvador, Nicaragua, etc. Furthermore, many training participants from other Latin American countries have studied in IISEE, too.

However, due to the Japanese ODA (Official Development Assistance) budget policy after the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster, the emphasis lies on capacity building rather than conventional technical cooperation projects in Latin American countries. Considering these circumstances and their mother tongue in Latin America, IISEE/BRI has decided to propose to JICA for a new short period training course on earthquake engineering. The training will be conducted in Spanish. JICA approved the proposal and it will be held in this coming June and July.

We are very glad for welcoming 14 participants from 4 countries this year. Next year we are anticipating having more applications including other countries in Latin America.

Reports on Kansai Study Trip

(1) Mr. Faouzi Gherboudj (Algeria, Seismology Course)

In this study trip, we had a great opportunity to visit Kansai region in the western part of Japan. Our itinerary includes three main cities: Osaka, Kobe and Kyoto.



During the four days, we could see a lot of interesting and special places, such as the famous Nojima Fault and its preservation museum, the world largest shaking table at E Defence laboratory and the world largest suspension bridge "Akashi Kaikyo Bridge".

1995 Kobe earthquake is famous and images of the collapsed elevated Hanshin Expressway made front pages on newspapers worldwide. Through our visit to this city, we realized how great effort Japan made to rebuild the beautiful city with high buildings and well-networked infrastructure. Personally, I appreciated this city, which represents a symbol of Japanese policies against disasters. The knowledge about disaster preparedness and mitigation is essential for progress and development for any country.

Earthquakes

The 2011 off the Pacific coast of Tohoku Earthquake

Reports of Recent Earthquakes

Utsu Catalog

Earthquake Catalog

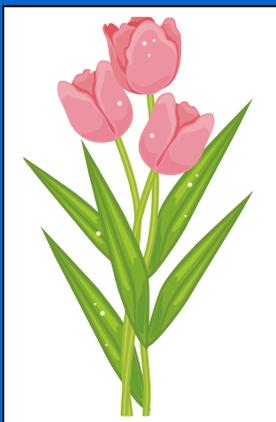
Call for Papers

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!!



(2)Mr. Mukunda Bhattarai (Nepal, Seismology Course)

We visited some parts of Kansai region focusing on Osaka, Kobe and Kyoto cities of Japan. It was a great opportunity for us to closely observe world's largest suspension bridge and shaking table located in this region.



In Osaka city we observed the surface topography induced by Uemachi Fault. Experience of Kobe Earthquake 1995 by simulation and the preserved Nojima Fault printed us unforgettable memories of earthquake disaster.

The Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution in Kobe passed us feeling of survivors as well as the effectiveness of reconstruction and recovery calendar after such disaster. Visit to ancient capital Kyoto provided a rare chance to see the architecture, culture and preservation methods of national heritage sites.

In this study trip we gained knowledge not only about earthquake safety measures in building, bridge and wooden structures but also the effect of faulting in topography and its mechanism during earthquakes.

It is noticed that technological advancement, capacity building and public awareness are key features for the mitigation of large earthquake disasters in Japan.

(3)Mr. Nurpujiono (Indonesia, Tsunami Disaster Mitigation Course)

Study trip to Kansai areas was very advantageous trip.

I was very impressed with Inamura-no-Hi story which was created in order to learn and hand down the achievements and spirit of Hamaguchi Goryo, who is renowned for saving villagers from tsunami with "the fire of rice sheaves."



Japanese people respect and learn from historical disaster, therefore the victims are reduced.

Japanese Government is very concerned about preparing facilities to face the expected large earthquakes along the Nankai Trough. I was also impressed with pedestrian bridge type Tsunami Evacuation Towers in Yoshida town. Japanese Government considers the policies to save life, to save the properties and to support people's future in dealing with disaster prevention.

Facilities as breakwater, seawall, water gate, floodgate and tsunami evacuation tower are not implemented in my country yet. My country is prone with earthquakes and tsunamis therefore I am wondering if someday my country may follow Japan in dealing with disaster.

Lunch under the Cherry Blossoms

On Friday April 4, IISEE had a "Cherry Blossom Viewing" lunch party.

Although it rained the day before, we enjoyed a good view of cherry blossoms and Japanese style lunch boxes. New staff members, Dr. Azuhata, Ms. Fujinuma and Ms. Maeda introduced themselves.



Enjoy, Now

Cherry trees around IISEE buildings came into full bloom at the beginning of April. It's just in time. They are beautiful but the time of their full bloom is brief.

Cherry blossom viewing is one of the Japanese people's traditional seasonal events. People go to see them with their family, friends and colleagues and enjoy eating and drinking. We were happy to have shared the time with training participants under the beautiful blossoms.



Cherry Blossom Viewing Lunch Party

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

Back Numbers

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

Letter from Ex-Participants

✉ Prof. Florin-Ermil DABIJA, Emeritus Professor
Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest
(Romania, Earthquake Engineering course, 1966-1967)

Prof Dabija from Romania has sent us his kind message of condolence following the death of Dr. Sheldon Cherry. With his permission, we are carrying his message as follows;

During the academic year 1966-1967 I was one the trainees in Earthquake Engineering at IISEE and I had the opportunity to attend the excellent lectures given by Dr. Sheldon Cherry, who was at that time acting as a UNESCO expert.

Ten years later, he visited Romania in the aftermath of the very severe earthquake (M=7.2) that hit our country on March 4, 1977. On that occasion I was very glad to meet him and discuss in a much friendly way a lot of matters, technical as well as general ones. I appreciated very much the support he gave in the early '90- ties to the Institute (now the University) of Civil Engineering Bucharest, by providing and sending a lot of books and magazines related to up-to-date seismic-resistant design of buildings.

So, I am now very sad to get the news of his passing away. I have really the feeling of having lost a friend. May he rest in peace.

Dear Readers:

We regret to inform you that IISEE website has been shut down since March 24, due to the unauthorized intrusion into our systems.

We are really sorry that this happened. This incident was very upsetting us. With your support and many requests all over the world, we resume our website gradually. Up to now some databases are still cannot be connected. We are now doing everything to reopen those databases. We apologize for your inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

IISEE

Snapshots of Kansai Study Trip



E Diffence (Miki-city)

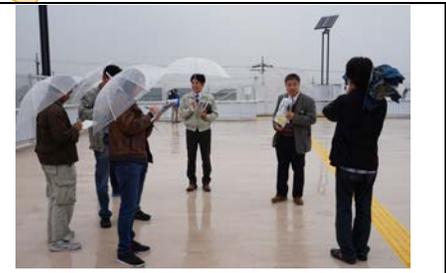


Bridge Tower Tour of Akashi-Kaikyo Suspension Bridge

Hyogo



Seismic Isolation System (Daiwa House)

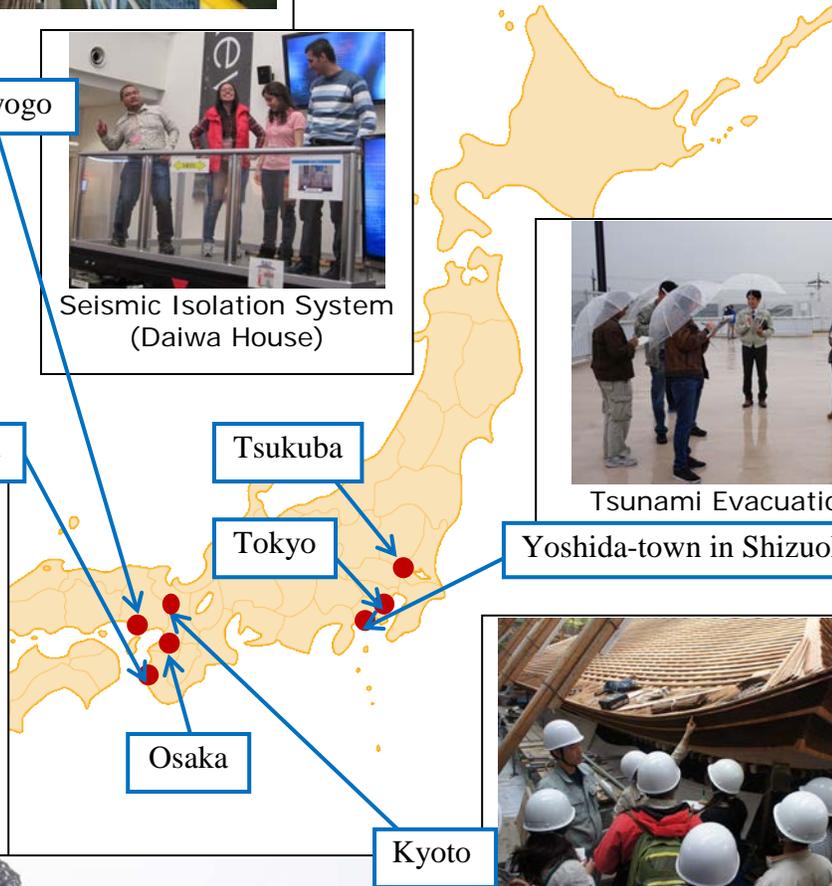


Tsunami Evacuation Tower

Yoshida-town in Shizuoka



Taikyu-Sha (an private academy established by Hamaguchi Goryo)



Kiyomizudera Observation



Kiyomizudera Temple