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Study Trip to Hiroshima & Kobe -Global Seismological Observation Course-

By Ms. Yoriko Iiba & Dr. Bunichiro Shibazaki of IISEE

The participants of the Global Seismological Observation Course visited Hiroshima and Kobe from February 6 (Thu) to 8 (Sat).



Lecture at MOFA

On the morning of Feb. 6, the participants had the lecture titled, "Japan's Perspective on Nuclear Disarmament," by Mr. Ken Ono, Principal Deputy Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Division, Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Science Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. After the lecture they headed east to Hiroshima by Shinkansen, a bullet train.

Next morning they visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and have learned the importance of lasting world peace. In the afternoon they moved to Kobe and visited the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution studying the lessons from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.

Although they intended to visit the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge and the Hokudan Earthquake Memorial Park on the final day, it was snowing. A heavy snow blocked the bridge and highways and brought the delay of the Shinkansen schedule. They cancelled the entire schedule on Saturday. However it was lucky for them to take the Shinkansen in the morning and came back to Tsukuba before evening.



At Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park

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Synopsis Database

Bulletin Database

Earthquakes

The 2011 off the Pacific coast of Tohoku Earthquake

Reports of Recent Earthquakes

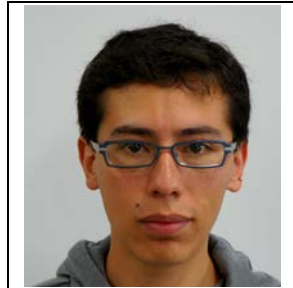
Utsu Catalog

Earthquake Catalog

Study Trip Reports by Global Course Participants

(1)Mr. Gonzalo Antonio Fernandez Maranon (Bolivia)

Once we got in the Museum and I read this phrase "War is the work of man, war is the destruction of human life," I could imagine what was inside the Museum, how the US took the decision to drop the bomb over Hiroshima and how the clear summer weather helped the US army to realize such a horror project.



Just looking around and hearing the speech of the some witnesses, I started to feel inside the day that there was not only the A-bomb impact but also the "post aftershocks impacts," which became the saddest day in the history. There were dark rain and fire all around, people were trying to help each other with little strength left, and many survivors also got some illness due to the radiation; and there are more sad histories.

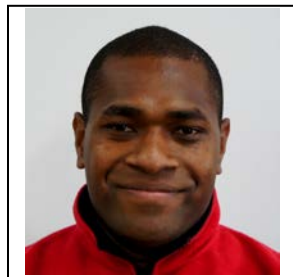
However, Japanese people were able to forgive those who developed that monster plan, taking efforts and showing example of humility, supporting each other like Sadako's history, developing and leading groups with peaceful behavior, and building that beautiful square to remind us of those who were murdered without a reason.

These are the reasons why all the CTBT state parties must take into account to put the treaty into force in order to prevent another Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

As Japan's flag has the rising sun, Hiroshima and Nagasaki became again important cities for the world, now with the museum that show what human can do and cannot do.

(2)Mr. Isikeli Waisega Duwai (Fiji)

When we visited the Peace Memorial Museum, I learned that the bomb was fired by the US army to ensure that the effects of the bomb could be accurately observed and the selected target should within an urban area and at least three miles in diameter. Hiroshima was chosen to be the target since there was no Allied Prisoner of War Camp in this city.



It was unfortunate to say and see the loss of humanity who doesn't know anything and suddenly hit by something which was very deadliest in the world, the world first atomic bomb.

This trip was very tremendous and an eye opener because most of the things I heard before were just rumors from many media outlets, conversation and speech, but looking at things on the real eyes makes viewers more emotional. It's just like staying at the scene of the bombing way back in 1945.

It's an unforgettable experience to observe the pain of those who suffered from this bombing. The lesson that has been brought from this museum is that for all countries with nuclear powers to be pleased to refrain from the nuclear power as the form of destruction and be a member of the CTBT treaty with accommodation. This is for the betterment of the world and future generation.

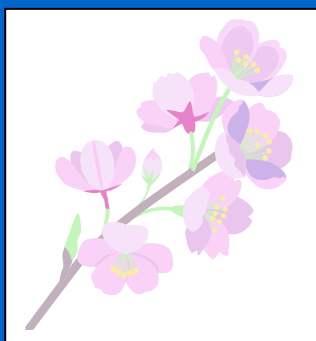
Call for Papers

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!!



(3)Ms. Indira Shiwakoti(Nepal)

I have never thought that Hiroshima was such a city with a green environment, and I am really happy on viewing the very developed Hiroshima now.

When we get out from tram, the view "THE HIROSIMA DOME" firstly reflects how the destruction at that time was. By looking the condition of that building we were able to imagine people's circumstances around affected part by "ATOM BOMB."



In the museum there are some actual collected things destroyed by heat and radiations i.e. melted rocks, roof tiles, weapons etc. and some of them are imaginary models such as falling of skins from body. We can question for the agreed countries to drop the bomb in Japan why they didn't think about painful moment of the people? Anybody has ego but killing or destruction is not the only solution for the future generation.

Anybody who visits Hiroshima can feel and conclude that we should destroy all the nuclear weapons from the universe. Otherwise, there will be accidents not only the one like in Japan in small scale but also the one that will destroy all over the world.

Lastly I would like people to visit Hiroshima and feel the message about harmfulness of nuclear weapons that were felt by Japanese people yesterday and developing more destructive weapons today will be "PRECAMBRIAN EARTH" (without living organism) tomorrow if countries keep having such enemies without caution.

IISEE Council for Training and Promotion held in Tokyo

The meeting of the Council for Training and Promotion of the International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering was held in Yotsuya, Tokyo on the 26th of February. The Council is constituted on the purpose of giving advice and suggestion to the BRI Chief Executive relating to the activities of dissemination of knowledge and technology of seismology and earthquake engineering as well as the planning and implementation of the training program.

It is consisted of 18 members who are university professors and emeriti, high-ranking officers in related organizations and distinguished journalists. Dr. Yoshimitsu Okada, Chief Executive of National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention(NIED) is in the chair. 13 members including 2 substitutes joined the meeting.

We greatly appreciate the cooperation and support that the council members have given IISEE.



IISEE Council for Training and Promotion

Participants' Reports for GRIPS Intensive Lectures

The participants of seismology and earthquake engineering course and tsunami disaster mitigation course attended the intensive lectures in National Graduate Institute of Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo from January 27 to February 7. This is one of the master's program curricula.

(1) Ms. Raquel Noemi Vasquez Stanescu (Venezuela, Seismology Course)

Japan has been prone to severe natural disasters such as floods, mudflows, landslides, earthquakes, and tsunamis. Due to its long history facing the ravages of nature, it was necessary to adopt strict measures to contribute to the reduction of disaster vulnerability and risk management, in order to protect the population.



Japan has become one of the countries with more experiences in disaster risk management.

During our visit at GRIPS, we have learned about disaster management policy, disaster mitigation, and recovery policy. We were introduced to very important topics such as basics of disaster risk management, identifying and profiling hazards, disasters and environmental issues, trends of disaster risks, property protection measures, and disaster mitigation plan.

When I return to Venezuela, I hope that the lessons learned from the Kobe earthquake (1995) and Tohoku earthquake and tsunami (2011), will be a valuable contribution to introduce risk reduction measures for my own country.

(2) Mr. Md. Emdadul Huq (Bangladesh, Earthquake Engineering Course)

In GRIPS, there were 35 participants from different courses of Disaster Management Policy Program including three Ph.D students for two weeks. In this time we had two courses and also two study trips, one in Nagoya City and another at Roppongi Hills Mori Tower in Tokyo.

Disaster Risk Management course was taken by Prof. Ando and Disaster Mitigation-Recovery Policy course was taken by Prof. Morichi. We learned a lot from both teachers.



Especially Prof. Morichi was excellent. He has high experience on disaster management policy related issue in Japan. He explained every policy from his personal experience that was very interesting.

Both study trips were also very interesting. In Nagoya city, we visited Nagoya Castle, Ueno Castle, Atsuta Shrine and superconducting magnetic levitation (SCMAGLEV) and Railway Park. We also visited ninja house and observed ninja show. The ninja trap, tactics, tricks, disguise and weapon for protecting from enemies were marvelous and incomparable.

In Tokyo, we visited 54 storied Roppongi Hills Mori Tower of urban development to observe how the authority maintains this building and produce own electric power.



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.

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

General Meeting & International Friendship Party



General Meeting

On February 18, we had a general meeting which is set for frank discussion between regular course participants and staff members. This is the second time for the course.

At the same day, during the lunch hour, we had an international friendship party at the BRI cafeteria. All the wonderful meals (at low cost) were prepared by Eriko and her colleagues.

The participants of the seismology and earthquake engineering course, the tsunami disaster mitigation course and the global seismological observation course, IISEE staff members, and as the special guests, Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive of BRI came to join the party.

For the Global Seismological Observation Course participants, this is the first and the last party in IISEE. Although the party time was short, everybody enjoyed it.



International Friendship Party

In Memoriam: Prof. Angel San Bartolome (Peru)

It was with profound sorrow that we received the sad news of the passing away of Prof. Angel San Bartolome of Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru on February 11 of 2014. Ms. Lucia Casaverde de Suzuki, 1980-1981 Earthquake Engineering course participant, kindly informed us on the sad news of her good friend.

Prof. Bartolome was a participant of 1974-1975 Earthquake Engineering course. He introduced his blogs in the IISEE Newsletter No. 100 in August. We would like to extend the sincerest sympathy to his family and associates.

Participant Recruitment for 2014-15 Starts Soon

JICA will soon send the general information of 2014-15 course to the selected countries. Those are India, El Salvador, Thailand, Turkey, Nicaragua, Nepal, Bangladesh, Philippines, Peru, Myanmar, and Mongol for seismology & earthquake engineering course, and Indonesia, Chili, Nicaragua, Philippines, Peru, Myanmar for tsunami disaster mitigation course. For further information, please ask a JICA Office in your country.

Back Numbers

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



BRI Strong Motion Observation ~ 50 years' Data

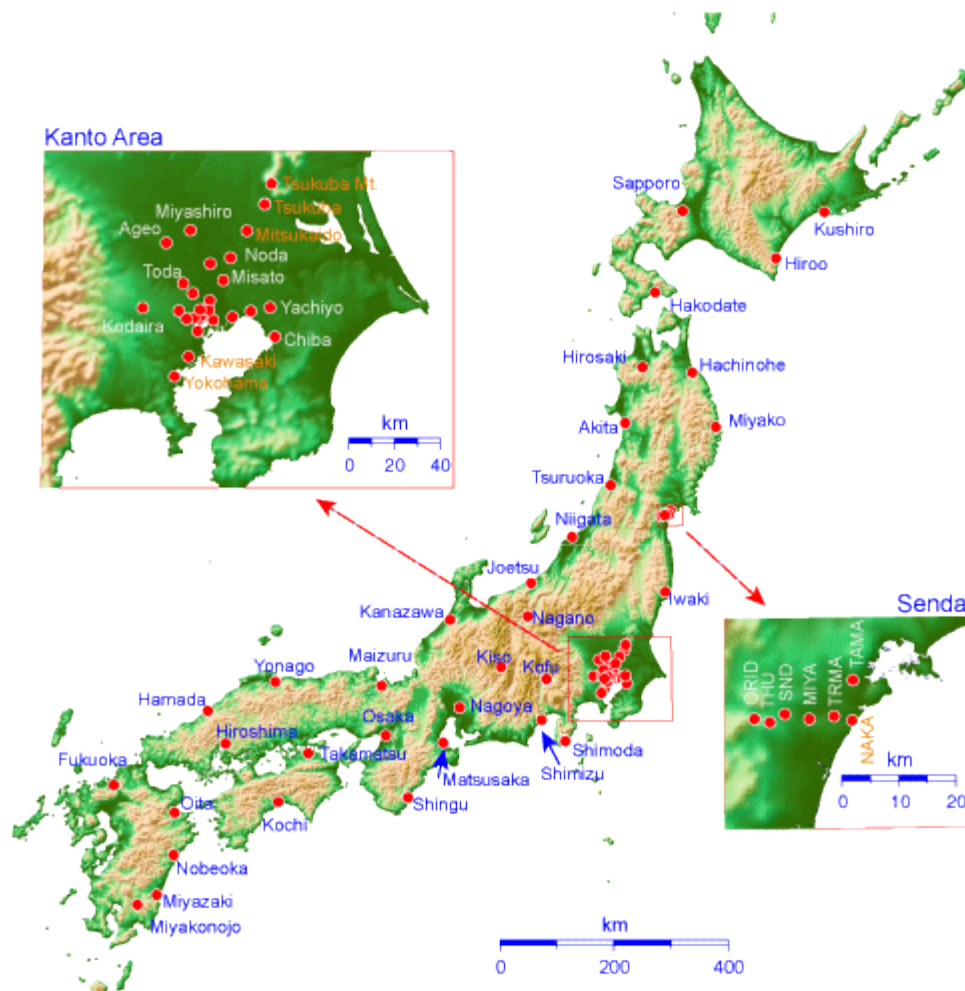
We have been conducting strong motion observation for building structures since 1957. During the past half a century, the great number of strong motion data were accumulated and used to develop the technology for improvement of earthquake resistance design technology. For further information, see <http://smo.kenken.go.jp/ja>.

*Research leader: Dr. Toshihide Kashima, Chief Research Engineer, IISEE

Outline

To enhance the seismic safety of buildings, it is necessary to understand the characteristics of earthquake ground motions and the behaviors of buildings during earthquakes. The Building Research Institute (BRI) is performing strong motion observation in order to investigate the actual dynamic behavior of buildings and is conducting research projects in relation to this motion.

BRI has installed strong-motion instruments in major cities throughout Japan. 74 observation stations are now in operation as shown as below. One third of these stations are located in Tokyo and its outskirts. All of the stations are equipped with state-of-the-art digital strong motion instruments and are connected to BRI via public telephone lines in order to maintain these instruments and to collect strong motion data immediately after an earthquake. The dynamic behavior of buildings during earthquakes is our target. Therefore, acceleration sensors are basically placed at the top and in the basement of a building, and optionally on the nearby ground.



The BRI strong motion network has obtained a number of noteworthy records, such as the acceleration record from the 1964 Niigata Earthquake and the 1978 Off Miyagi Pref. Earthquake. The former was the first set of records from a disastrous earthquake in Japan, and the latter included a record with a PGA exceeding 1G. In another example from the 1993 Off-Kushiro earthquake, a peak acceleration of 711 cm/s^2 was observed at the ground surface at the Kushiro JMA Observatory. Moreover, an enormous acceleration record was obtained in the new Hachinohe City Hall building for the 1994 Far Off Sanriku Earthquake. The peak acceleration at the 6th floor reached about 1G. Damage to the new building was slight, but an adjoining older building was severely damaged. The record was valuable for investigating the failure process of the building.