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## 16 Participants Completed the 2019-2020 Training Course

By Mr. Takahiro Yamada Head of Administration Division, IISEE

On Sep 14, we had a closing ceremony of the training courses in Seismology, Earthquake Engineering, and Tsunami Disaster Mitigation, which started on Oct 2, last year.

16 participants from 12 countries (Bangladesh(1), Bhutan(1), Chile(1), Costa Rica(2), El Salvador(1), Indonesia(2), Mexico(1), Mongolia(2), Myanmar(1), Nepal(1), Philippines(2), and Timor-Leste(1) joined the training course. In the ceremony, the representative of participants received a certificate of completion and Post Graduate Diplomas. After that, all of the participants were awarded.

During the training period, the participants were divided into three courses, Seismology, Earthquake Engineering, and Tsunami Disaster Mitigation, and have attended specialized lectures considering their field. They summarized the research and solutions for the problems in their countries.

In the closing ceremony, the Director of Disaster Management Policy Program of GRIPS, Mr. Sugahara, who joined remotely,



Ms. Akiko ODA, Deputy Director General, Tsukuba Center, JICA



Dr. Mitsumasa MIDORIKAWA, President of BRI



Mr. Masaru SUGAHARA, Director of Disaster Management Policy (DMP) Program, GRIPS

## IISEE Net and Training

IISEENET

IISEE-UNESCO Lecture Note

IISEE E-learning

Synopsis Database

Bulletin Database

## Earthquakes

The 2011 off the Pacific coast of Tohoku Earthquake

Reports of Recent Earthquakes

Utsu Catalog

Earthquake Catalog

announced 2 participants of the best research award. Dr. Azuhata, the director of IISEE, announced 4 participants of the IISEE award.

Lastly, Mr. Pema from Bhutan made an address in reply to congratulatory speeches.

We wish their success in their country using the knowledge from this training course and the network of the people.



Presentation of Certificate  
Mr. OCTANTYO Ardian Yudhi  
from Indonesia, S course



Presentation of Diploma  
Mr. BISWAS Rajib Kanti  
from Bangladeshu, E course



Best research award, Mr.  
GONZALEZ ILAMA Gino Steven  
from Costa Rica, S course



Best research award, Mr. RAMOS  
HERNANDEZ William Alexander  
from El Salvador, E course



IISEE Director's Award  
Ms. CHAVARRIA ESQUIVEL  
Nathalie Yoliana  
from Costa Rica, S course



IISEE Director's Award  
Mr. DALAIJARGAL Lkhagvadorj  
from Mongolia, S course



Enjoy, Now



IISEE Director's Award  
Mr. VARMA Amit Kumar  
from Nepal, E course



IISEE Director's Award  
Mr. NUROKHIM Arif  
from Indonesia, T course



## GRIPS Online Graduation Ceremony

By Mr. Takahiro Yamada Head of 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 complete a one-year training course. This year, due to the infection control measures, GRIPS conducted an online ceremony.

On Sep 15, Eleven of the IISEE participants who have joined the training course remotely attended the graduation ceremony held at GRIPS. In closing the 2019-2020 IISEE training course, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the people involved for their cooperation. Thank you very much.



## 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 needed.

Try to challenge!



## Address in Reply on Behalf of All the Participants Mr. Pema From Bhutan Earthquake Engineering course

Why are we here today? Sixteen participants from twelve countries. Traveling miles away from family and friends. This is because: "We have the same vision for better tomorrow and share a common interest in building a resilient and sustainable society using science and technology. We are here to learn from the best of the world, Japan, the leading country in disaster management. Here we can see how the theories are put into real practice". Our journey has not been easy yet a fulfilling one. A smooth sea never made a great sailor.

Dr. Mitsumasa Midorikawa, President of Building Research Institute, Professor Masaru Sugahara, Program Director of the Disaster Management Policy Program of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Mr. Takeshi Watanabe, General Director of JICA Tsukuba International Center, Dr. Tatsuya Azuhata, Director of International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering, Ladies and gentlemen, A very good morning to you all.

It is indeed a great honor and privilege to stand here in front of this august gathering in this auspicious day and say these closing words. Today is the day to rejoice and be proud of our achievements made thus far but let us not be complacent. Remember, success is a journey, not a destination.

Having said this, without your blessings, my dear senseis', we would not have seen the light at the end of the tunnel. Thank you for being kind and patient. This master's course was designed to be very practical. It



Mr. Pema From Bhutan  
Earthquake Engineering course

ensures that we are adequately exposed to the new developments in seismology, earthquake engineering, and tsunami disaster mitigation. From a series of lectures to practical experimentations works, intertwined with memorable field visits, we are not only equipped with the skills and knowledge but learned about the diverse and rich culture of Japan. We were able to re-live the past tragic disasters, but not limited to, the Great Hanshin Awaji and Great East Japan earthquakes, which were marvelously preserved to date. Seeing is believing, and learning through firsthand experience will undoubtedly improve how we now view great disasters and contribute to society with clear perspectives.

It was a very intensive course, and I am sure my friend agrees that we were always racing against time to complete our tasks. However, seeing the enthusiasm of our senseis', still guiding us, nothing was impossible. You believed in us; thus, we were able to stand with dignity. Words can neither qualify nor quantify how helpful your guidance and advice has been. We shall remain forever grateful for your support! More importantly, we now join the cohort of expertise that IISEE/ BRI has nurtured since the 1960s. We want to assure our sensei that your efforts will not be put to vain. To the staffs of IISEE, I cannot imagine a day at IISEE without your unweaving support. You have ensured that the training course runs smoothly without any hindrance. We would like to share our achievements with you.

We could focus on our study, living here without worrying, that too through this pandemic COVID-19; all thanks to the continued support and guidance from JICA. You have ensured that we live free from anxiety and all we need to do is focus on our ambition to learn. Thank you for making our stay in Japan safe and memorable. Disasters know no boundaries, and the only practical solution is through international collaboration and efforts. JICA's commitment and leadership to knowledge sharing with the creation of a self-less environment for a better future of the people around the globe is an exemplary example. We look forward to your continued guidance and assistance. Reflecting to JICA, please remember to avoid 3C's – Closed spaces, Crowded places, and Close-contact setting, in welcoming the new normal.

For my colleagues, I have seen all of your work very hard, and your zest for learning is impeccable. Please continue to learn and be a good human being as you all are. I learned the value of true friendship and the spirit of teamwork. Thank you for everything.

Truth-be-told, I have never felt this level of excitement to return to my country and start acting on our action plans, which have developed as part of this master's course. Let us work together for a better tomorrow. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors and a safe journey back home.

Thank you and Tashi Delek.

## 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)

## Courtesy Call on the MLIT Minister

By Mr. Takahiro Yamada Head of Administration Division, IISEE

On Sep 8, IISEE participants made a courtesy call on Mr. Kazuyoshi Akaba, the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism. To prevent infection spread, three representatives from Costa Rica, Indonesia, and Nepal visited representing 16 participants from 12 countries. The rest of the other participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Indonesia, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Timor-Leste joined from Tsukuba remotely. Minister Akaba introduced his ideas of



earthquake disaster prevention measures and countermeasure examples in Japan based on the self-experience of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.

He encouraged the participants to use what the participants have learned in this training to become a leader in earthquake disaster prevention measures in their home countries and work as a bridge with Japan in the future.

Representing IISEE participants, Ms. CHAVARRIA ESQUIVEL Nathalie Yoliana from Costa Rica, expressed her gratitude for supporting to



developing countries through the venerable IISEE training course. She stated that all the participants will improve disaster response capacity back home and keep passion to prove the greatness of what they had learned in this country.

Finally, this year's courtesy call became a

hybrid one from other places, Tokyo and Tsukuba via the internet.

The group photo was a different style, but wonderful one.

I hope this opportunity of the visit encourages them to take important roles for the future of their home counties.

## To change registered e-mail address

Please contact us when you have adjusted your e-mail address to receive

IISEEnewsletter:  
iiseenews@kenken.go.jp

## Back Numbers

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



URL of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism :

<https://www.mlit.go.jp/en/kokusai/0000035.html>

URL of Building Research Institute :

<https://www.kenken.go.jp/english/award/20200910.html>

## Reports on Kansai and Kumamoto Study Trip



(1)Ms. LKHAGVA Dagzinmaa from Mongolia, Seismology course

The aim of our four days study trip, which took place from 19th August to 22th August in 2020, was an exposure to the Great Hanshin Awaji earthquake disaster, also called Kobe earthquake (on January 17, 1995, at 05:46:53 JST (January 16 at 20:46:53 UTC) in the southern part of Hyōgo Prefecture) disaster areas.

The first day of the trip started with the observation tour of Honryu-Ji temple refurbishment work, it is the oldest temple in the Shijo Omiya area of Kyoto. We have observed every detailed process of heritage recovery work. More else, on this day, we had a chance to visit the Golden Pavilion, one of the main tourist attractions in Japan.

The second day of the trip mostly concentrated on the lessons learned from the Kobe earthquake. With our visit to Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution, we watched some simulation and documentaries of the whole experience of earthquakes.

We have finished the second day of the trip with a visit to the Nojima Fault Preservative Museum. An exhibition and 4D simulations in the museum gave us a clear idea about the disaster condition and geological features. One of the exciting parts was the tour of the longest

suspension bridge in the World named Akashi Kaikyo Bridge and its exhibition center.

The following days of the trip continued in the Kumamoto area, and the most impressive part was the Aso Mount area and Aso Volcano with Aso caldera, which is the second-largest caldera in Japan.

This four days study trip to Kansai and Kumamoto district was an inspiring activity to enhance our understanding of disaster mitigation programs. We have broadened our knowledge of natural disaster as earthquakes and discovered many interesting places at the same time. It made me realize the hardships the people suffering from natural disasters, go through and learn the

importance of preparation and prevention for the life of the citizens. The exhibitions and simulations at the museums helped to catch a clear idea about the disaster condition and geological features for the senses in a more realistic way. From the selected observation points at Aso mount, we have noticed a characteristic of the landscape to consider the relationship between the geological condition and seismic activity in a more conscious way.



the observation tour of Honryu-Ji temple refurbishment work



Collapse Slope Recovery site in Aso Ohashi area

URL of Honryu-Ji temple refurbishment work(Japanese):

<http://www.hokkeshu.jp/news/repairwork.html>

URL of Countermeasures of Slope in Aso Ohashi area(Japanese):

[http://www.qsr.mlit.go.jp/kumamoto\\_r/erosion.html](http://www.qsr.mlit.go.jp/kumamoto_r/erosion.html)



## (2)Mr. NADIMPALLY Bryan from Philippines, Seismology course

Reliving the effect of earthquakes in southern Japan through the eyes and voices of the Japanese people and learning from the countermeasures



A study in seismology would never be complete without seeing the great strides taken by Japan in preserving and engraving the memories of past earthquakes upon museum walls or exhibits. But what truly amazes me is how Japan learns from failure and takes measures to thwart severe damage resulting from the inevitability of earthquakes. To understand we travelled to the south of Japan, a region whose devastation caused by earthquakes is matched only by its resilience to earthquakes in terms of technological milestones and imparting lessons learned from previous disasters.

The Honshu-Shikoku Bridge Expressway and Aso Ohashi Bridge stand as testament to how dedicated Japan is to molding a secure future for generations to come. The use of techniques such as PC Rigid-Frame Bridge and unmanned i-Construction technology came to the fore during the lectures delivered by Mr. Yasuyuki Teramoto and senseis from the Ministry of Land,

Infrastructre, Tranport and Tourism (MLIT). Also the comprehensive lecture given by Hayashida sensei was extremely helpful in understanding volcanoes and the formation of Aso volcano in particular. For people who have experienced tragedies the memories of past disasters will forever be etched into their minds but for future

generations it is but tales

handed down from elders. Evidence and tangible materials are what allow future generations to learn from and understand what happened in the past without having to endure the traumatic experience. Akashi Kaikyo museum and Nojima fault museum are such places where future generations of Japanese and foreign origin can bear witness to the events that transpired after the occurrence of earthquakes. Not only in the hopes of creating more resilient and safer communities but also allowing people to heal by remembering that their suffering and sacrifice has passed but will never be forgotten.



Preservation of fault line at Nojima fault preservation museum

URL of Nojima fault preservation museum  
<http://nojima-danso.co.jp/nojima.html>

(3)Mr. BISWAS Rajib Kanti from Bangladesh, Earthquake Engineering course



At first, I want to say thank you to the authority of International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering (IISEE), BRI, JICA for the arrangement of four days long study trip to Kyoto, Kobe, and Kumamoto with taking extreme precautions for not having infected by Covid-19.

After reaching Kyoto on 19th August, we visited Honryu-ji Temple to observe the refurbishment work. I was amused to see how they have tried to preserve the old elements of the structure and to use the ancient method for inserting the new

elements. After that, we went to Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion), whose top two floors are covered in golden leaf, and enjoyed the environment around the place.

The next day in the morning, we went to Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution. I learned the experiences & lessons from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and the process of reconstruction of the city.



Akashi Kaikyo Bridge

After that, we moved to the place of the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge exhibition center. Here, I learned the construction procedure of the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge and the materials used for the construction. I was pleased to see the 40 m long 1/100 scale model of the bridge.

Then, our next destination was the Nojima Fault Preservation Museum to observe the exposed surface fault of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. Here, I learned what happened in this disastrous event. In the next two days, we visited the disaster area of Aso, the collapse slope recovery site in the Aso Ohashi area, Kumamoto Castle, and Mount Aso area. We observed the process of slope recovery site, the

construction procedure of Aso bridge, the reconstruction procedure of Kumamoto Castle, and the volcanic mountain Aso. It was an excellent opportunity for us to visit those kinds of places by which we could learn not only the lessons from the natural disasters that the Japanese people faced but also the preparedness for next the natural disasters.

URL of Akashi Kaikyo Bridge

<https://www.jb-honshi.co.jp/english/bridgeworld/index.html>

#### (4)Mr. OROPEL Joseph Christopher from Philippines, Earthquake Engineering course

The participants stayed in Kobe City for the first two days while studying the effects of the 1995 Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake. In the remaining two days, they stayed in Kumamoto City and studied the impact of the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake in Kumamoto Prefecture. These earthquakes had unique challenges from each other. They were an excellent opportunity to learn from experts who dealt with the challenges in disaster mitigation and response.



There were many locations covered during the study trip that I learned so much; however, the sites that struck me the most were the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution and the Akashi-Kaikyo Ohashi. The memoirs from the 1995 Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake survivors reminded us how important our responsibility as earthquake engineers to safeguard the lives of the countless members of our community.

As our time in Japan is slowly setting, I believe this is an excellent opportunity to reflect on past experiences and the learnings we had from the past year to focus our attention on our home country where we can be an instrument to help contribute towards life preservation. We hold ourselves accountable for the countless lives we can protect from the structures that we continue to use daily.



Memoirs from Earthquake Survivors

The other location that had a significant impact on me was the visit to the famous Akashi-Kaikyo Ohashi. It has been a long time since I first learned about the bridge, and finally seeing it in person was one of my favorite memories in Japan. It has stood as a hallmark structure that showcases the best technology in Japan regarding bridge infrastructure.

The trip was successful as most of the locations were covered in the program despite hindrances from COVID-19. I applaud the efforts of

JICA and IISEE for conducting the program under the looming health concerns.

URL of Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institute:  
<http://www.dri.ne.jp/en>

### (5)Mr. NUROKHIM Arif from Indonesia, Tsunami Disaster Mitigation course

#### UNFORGETTABLE MOMENT AND STUDY



As part of the course, we carry out study trips to other parts of Japan. To be able to learn about the culture and traditions of Japanese society. This time is heading towards the west of Japan, namely, Kyoto, Kobe, to the Kumamoto area.

In Kyoto, we reminisce about the historical buildings at Honryuji temple and Kinkakuji temple. It is awe-inspiring that a building that is hundreds of years old still stands majestically as a witness to Japanese society's splendor. The traditional techniques used by the community at

that time were very capable of being developed as the basis for buildings today.

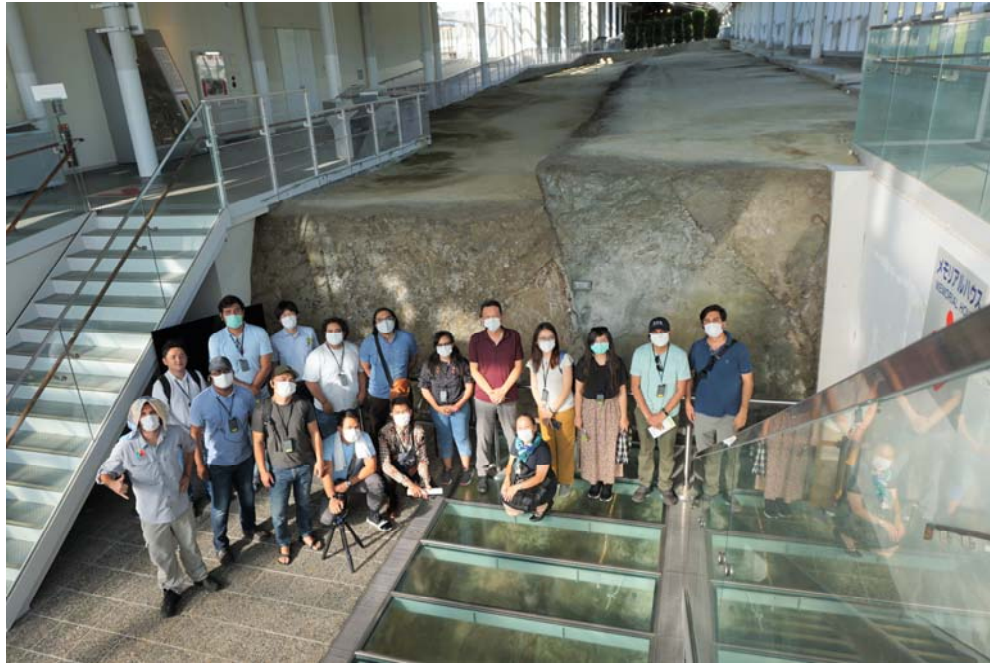
Furthermore, in Wakayama, we learned a story about the heroism of a Goryo Hamaguchi when a devastating tsunami hit the area. Inamura no hi, a tale of Hamaguchi's intelligence in disaster preparedness. An initiative to burn "Inamura" (rice sheaves), which the community used as an evacuation route from the waves of the tsunami that hit at that time. Prepare ourselves from disaster by learning from people who have been through it. The essential and memorable lessons, don't forget the history of social life and the tragedy because the nature of the catastrophe will happen again. The historical record is vital for us to learn how an event occurred in the past, be it in the form of literature, monuments, museums, and others.

Finally, feast on the eyes of the green mountains in a giant caldera, Aso volcano. An incredible view, a peaceful atmosphere, and a fantastic experience during the trip.

And finally I would like to express my deepest gratitude to BRI, IISEE and JICA staff, and people guided us at the site for this unforgettable experiences.



Inamura in Wakayama



Nojima fault preservation museum



Kumamoto Castle

URL of Inamura-no-Hi no Yakata, Hamaguchi Goryou Archives Tsunami Educational Center:

<https://www.town.hirogawa.wakayama.jp/inamuranohi/english/>

URL of Kumamoto Castle

<https://castle.kumamoto-guide.jp/en/>