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Courtesy Call on the MLIT Minister

By IISEE

On Monday, September 9, 13 participants who are about to complete the annual training course paid a courtesy visit to Mr. Saito, the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

Minister Saito congratulated the participants and said, "I hope that you will make the most of this training course and become leaders in earthquake disaster mitigation in your home countries.

On behalf of the participants, Mr. Sesar from Indonesia said, "In addition to the valuable lectures and training, it was a meaningful year for me as I had the opportunity to learn about Japan's commitment to reconstruction. I will try to spread the disaster mitigation technology I learned in Japan to my home country." He expressed his enthusiasm after returning to his home country.



During the Courtesy Call



Group Photo

The 2023-2024 Training Course Closed

By IISEE

On Tuesday, Sep 10, we had a closing ceremony of the training courses in Seismology, Earthquake Engineering, and Tsunami Disaster Mitigation. 13 participants from 8 countries (Algeria(2), Indonesia(4), El Salvador(2), Turkmenistan(1), Türkiye(1), Philippines(1), Peru(1), and Malaysia(1)) joined the training course. In the ceremony, the representative of participants received a certificate of completion and Post Graduate Diplomas.

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, Dr. Katayama announced 3 participants of the best research award. Dr. Fujii, the director of IISEE, announced 2 participants of the IISEE director's award. Lastly, Mr. Joseph from Peru made an address in reply to congratulatory speeches.



Mr. Makoto TAKAHASHI,
Director General, Tsukuba Center, JICA



Dr. Takao SAWACHI
President of BRI



Dr. Koji KATAYAMA,
Director of Disaster Management



Presentation of Certificate
Mr. ABBOUDA Moustafa from Algeria, S-course



Presentation of Diploma
Mr. ULLOA UMANZOR Jose Ricardo
from El Salvador, E-course



Best Research Award
Mr. SAMAPTA Brilian Tatag from Indonesia, S-course



Best Research Award
Mr. JARAMILLO DEL AGUILA Joseph Darwin
from Peru, E-course



Best Research Award
Mr. SRIYANTO Sesar Prabu Dwi
from Indonesia, T-course



IISEE Director's Award
Mr. HAOUAS Islam form Algeria, E-course



IISEE Director's Award
Mr. PONCE Engracio Jr form Philippines, T-course



Group Photo

Closing Ceremony Speech 2024

By Mr. JARAMILLO DEL AGUILA Joseph Darwin (Peru, E-course)

Mr. Makoto TAKAHASHI, General Director of JICA
Tsukuba International Center, Dr. Takao SAWACHI,
President of the Building Research Institute, Dr. Koji
KATAYAMA, Program Director of the Disaster
Management Policy Studies, Dr. Yushiro Fujii, Director
of IISEE, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.



It has been nearly a year since thirteen participants from eight countries arrived in Japan, having traveled thousands of miles away from their families, friends, and loved ones. For some of us, it was the first time to leave our countries without knowing what we would find here in a completely new environment and culture. Nevertheless, for all of us the objective was the same, to achieve a new challenge in this academic journey for the benefit of our families and societies.

It is a great honor to stand here on this wonderful day and deliver these closing words. However, this honor belongs to all those people who made this day possible. Therefore, on behalf of all the participants of the Seismology, Earthquake Engineering and Tsunami Disaster Mitigation Course, I would like to express our gratitude to them. Our professors, from IISEE, BRI, GRIPS, and other campuses and institutions, have not only imparted us with knowledge, but have also inspired us, and challenged our thinking with their expertise and guidance. Their dedication to our education was the reason we can celebrate our success today.

We are profoundly grateful to JICA, for their continuous support during our study and for making our stay here pleasant, memorable and safe. JICA's dedication and leadership in fostering knowledge sharing to build an environment for a brighter future for people worldwide is truly admirable. Thank you for your altruism, for believing in our potential and giving us the opportunity to receive this world-class education.

Now, we are here, in Japan, an island nation situated along the Pacific Ring of Fire, is no stranger to disasters. From earthquakes and tsunamis to typhoons and volcanic eruptions, the Japanese people have faced several challenges. However, what stands out is not merely the frequency of these events but the remarkable ways in which Japan has adapted and responded. Upon our arrival, we were struck by how Japan harmonizes advanced technology with its rich cultural heritage. Despite its progress, the country has preserved its origins and traditions. Japan's success today is a testament to its ability to learn from the past while shaping a better future for generations to come. The dedication and discipline that the Japanese people put into everything they do are worthy of the greatest admiration and have served as inspiration for everything we did and pretend to achieve in our societies.

Japan's experience underscores the importance of preparedness, community unity, and continual improvement. It teaches us that facing profound challenges with a blend of advanced technology and deep-rooted cultural values can lead to remarkable recovery and growth. Now, our duty as disciples and citizens is to spread this knowledge to our countries to build a stronger and more resilient future.

To conclude this speech, I would like to say some last words:

For this beautiful country and its people: As I leave these wonderful lands, I know that a piece of my heart will always stay here with you. And I promise to carry you with me wherever I go.

For my classmates: Farewell, my dear fellows. Now here, in this beautiful land called Tsukuba, the end of our journey is coming. I'm not going to say that you shouldn't be sad or that you shouldn't cry, because not all sadness and tears come from something evil. Even though our work here is now finished, it will continue in our countries.

Finally, I would like to share some words that have consistently inspired me throughout every journey I undertake, and that I have been able to see them reflected on the people and society of this country. They serve as a powerful reminder of the reasons behind my determination and efforts, as it is not just about individual welfare; it is about achieving a more significant benefit through the well-being of our households: "I do not love the bright sword for its sharpness. Nor the arrow for its swiftness. Nor the warrior for his glory. I love the homeland which they defend." by John Ronald Reuel Tolkien.

Doumo arigatougozaimasu.

GRIPS Graduation Ceremony

By 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.

All the 13 participants attended the graduation ceremony at the GRIPS on Wednesday, September 11. After this ceremony, the participants returned to their respective countries. In closing the 2023-2024 IISEE training course, we would like to

express our sincere gratitude to all the people involved for their cooperation. Thank you very much.



Report on Kansai Study Trip

[Day 1]

By Mr. YUSUF Fadly (Indonesia, S-course)

Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI)

During the study trip to the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI), I gained significant insights into advanced disaster management strategies and community resilience. The visit provided a deep understanding of the institution's comprehensive approach to disaster reduction, including meticulous risk assessments, proactive emergency response planning, and robust community engagement initiatives. I observed how DRI integrates cutting-edge technology and research to enhance early warning systems and improve disaster preparedness. The emphasis on educating the public about disaster risks and implementing preventive measures was particularly enlightening. Additionally, witnessing the institution's efforts in reconstructing and revitalizing communities affected by disasters underscored the importance of human-centered strategies in recovery. This experience reinforced the critical role of disaster reduction in urban planning and the value of fostering community resilience through proactive and informed measures.

[Day 2]

By Mr. HAOUAS Islam (Algeria, E-course)

E-Defense

As part of the Kansai Region Study Trip, participants from Seismology and Earthquake Engineering courses at IISEE-BRI visited E-Defense in Miki City. The E-Defense institution was established after the 1995 Kobe Earthquake, and it comprises various sections: the Experiment Building with the world's largest shaking table (300m²), Preparation Building, Hydraulic Unit Building, Operation Building, and Outside Equipment Area. This facility can simulate major earthquakes such as the 1995 Kobe and 2011 Great East Japan events. It also conducts structural testing on various building types, including RC buildings, steel frame, and wooden structures. E-Defense plays a crucial role in enhancing earthquake resilience through damage testing and seismic improvement research. The knowledge gained from this site visit will significantly contribute to our future work in earthquake engineering and research collaborations. The visit also provided invaluable insights into the importance of advanced seismic testing facilities in improving building safety and resilience against earthquakes.

By Mr. CHARYYEV Perhat (Turkmenistan, E-course)

E-Isolation

During our visit to the e-isolation laboratory, the staff provided an insightful explanation of Japan's groundbreaking advancements in earthquake safety technology. Since the introduction of the first seismic isolation structure in 1983, Japan has made significant strides, particularly after the 1995 Hyogo-ken Nanbu Earthquake, which demonstrated the effectiveness of these systems in real-life scenarios.

The laboratory specialist guided us through the lab, showing us the advanced equipment used to simulate real earthquakes. This equipment allows researchers to test how buildings and structures respond to seismic forces, ensuring they can withstand the intense shaking during an earthquake. It was impressive to learn how these technologies enable buildings to move in a controlled manner during an earthquake, which helps to minimize damage and protect the lives of those inside.

The professor also introduced us to the newly established full-scale testing facility, which will play a crucial role in further refining these technologies. The visit highlighted Japan's leading position in developing safer, earthquake-resistant communities, emphasizing the importance of continuous innovation in this critical field.

By Mr. HARYANTO Fajar Tri (Indonesia, T-course)

Inamura-no-Hi no Yakata

Hamaguchi Goryo, a visionary leader from the Tokugawa era, played a crucial role in safeguarding his village, Hirogawa, from tsunamis. On November 5, 1854, when the area was struck by a devastating tsunami, Goryo noticed strange skies and quickly sent villagers to higher ground. To guide them through the dark and cold night, he set fire to valuable sheaves of straw, a sacrifice that illuminated the way to safety. Despite this, the tsunami claimed 36 lives, but 97% of the 1,320-population survived, thanks to Goryo's quick thinking. After the disaster, Goryo funded and organized the construction of a sea wall, which took four years to complete. This 5-meter-high barrier provided crucial time for evacuation during future tsunamis. The United Nation then decided the date of this event to be a "Tsunami Awareness Day". The Hamaguchi Goryo Archive, now a tsunami educational center and shelter, continues to honor his legacy. The center commemorates Goryo's achievements and serves as a reminder of the importance of preparedness in a region that has been struck by tsunamis eight times throughout its history.

By Mr. SRIYANTO Sesar Prabu Dwi (Indonesia, T-course)

Tsunami and Storm Surge Disaster Prevention Station

On the second day of our study trip, we visited the Tsunami and Storm Surge Disaster Prevention Station in Osaka. This facility is essential for monitoring and managing coastal disasters like tsunamis and storm surges, helping reduce their impact on Osaka City. It also serves as a learning center, educating the public

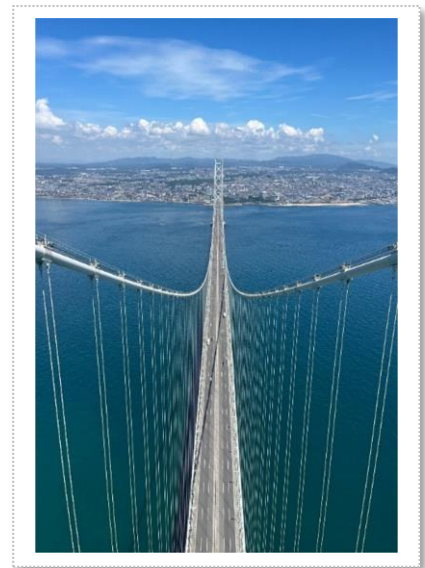
about these natural disasters and strategies to mitigate their effects. The station was established as part of the Osaka City government's proactive measures against coastal disasters. Given Osaka's location along Osaka Bay, which connects to the Pacific Ocean, the city is particularly vulnerable to tsunamis from the Nankai Trough and storm surges from frequent typhoons. Additionally, Osaka's position below mean sea level increases its susceptibility to flooding. To counter these risks, the city has developed tsunami hazard maps, evacuation sites, and flood control systems, including tide walls and flood gates, enhancing its resilience against future coastal disasters.

[Day 3]

By Mr. PONCE Engracio Jr (Philippines, T-course)

Akashi-Kaikyo Bridge

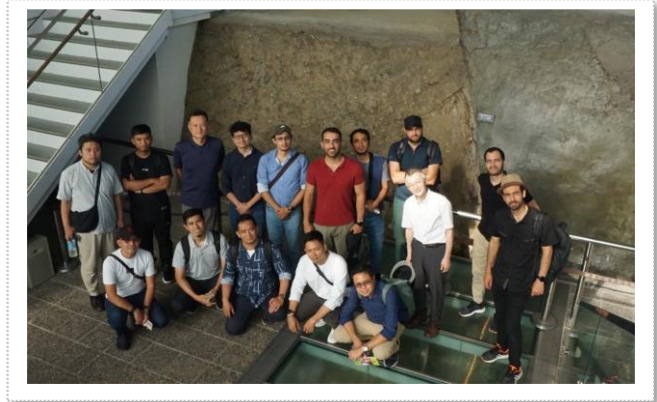
During our third day of the Kansai study trip, we have given a chance to visit the Akashi-Kaikyo Bridge. Visiting one of the longest suspension bridges in the world, with a 3,911m total span length is a remarkable experience during our stay here in Japan. The bridge is still under construction during the time of January 17, 1995 earthquake, which resulted in the adjustment of the central span length by 1m. We have also learned the advanced technologies used for the construction of the bridge. This bridge is a testament to Japan's engineering prowess and innovation. The view at the top of the bridge offers a breathtaking view of the surrounding sea.



By Mr. ABOUDA Moustafa (Algeria, S-course)

Nojima Fault Preservation Museum

On January 17th, 1995, at 5:46 a.m., Kobe city and its surrounding areas were struck by a devastating earthquake. The ground shook violently, resulting in the loss of 6,400 lives and widespread destruction throughout the city. The Mw 6.9 earthquake was generated by a 40 km NE-SW trending strike-slip fault system consisting of multiple segments. Some segments exhibited pure strike-slip motion, while others accompanied by a reverse fault component. This was particularly evident along the Nojima Fault, where the surface rupture provides clear evidence of predominantly right-lateral displacement, accompanied by a significant reverse-slip component. The rupture initiated in the Akashi Strait and propagated north-eastward toward Kobe City, where no surface rupture was observed, and south-westward into Awaji Island. Today, the Nojima Fault Preservation Museum stands as a testament to the seismic events of that fateful morning on January 17, 1995. The museum serves as an educational monument for future generations, offering insights into the tectonic forces that shaped the region.



[Day 4]

By Mr. MADRID MADRID Omar Anthony (El Salvador, S-course)

Jishu-jinja Shrine -tour of refurbishment work

My pilgrimage to Jishu Jinja Shrine in Kyoto was a journey into the heart of Japanese tradition. Dedicated to Okuninushi-no-Mikoto, the deity of love, this sacred space is currently undergoing a meticulous restoration. Skilled artisans, their hands moving with practiced grace, are hand-crafting every element of the shrine. The shrines have reinforced the structure to withstand strong winds and earthquakes.

As I wandered through the serene grounds, I was captivated by the intricate details of the ongoing work. The sweet scent of freshly cut wood filled the air. Witnessing this blend of tradition and craftsmanship was a truly awe-inspiring experience. The meticulous care and precision evident in the restoration underscored Japan's deep reverence for its historical sites.



Jishu Jinja's enduring charm, combined with the intricate artistry behind its preservation, left an indelible impression on me. It was a privilege to be a part of this sacred space's journey through time.

(Short Report) Visiting Honjo Life Safety Learning Center

By IISEE

On Tuesday, August 27, participants toured the Honjo Life Safety Learning Center where they can learn about disaster prevention knowledge and techniques.



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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