



# IISEE Newsletter



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## Sympathy for the Victims of the Myanmar Earthquake

### By IISEE

It is with great sadness that the terrible earthquake struck middle Myanmar, and Thailand.

We want to express our heartfelt condolences to those who lost their lives and our sympathies to those who have been affected by the earthquake.

We also pray from the bottom of our hearts for the earliest possible recovery of the affected areas.

The international training programs on Seismology and Earthquake Engineering began in 1960, and 41 participants from Myanmar and 46 participants from Thailand have completed the programs.

We pray that they and their family will be safe in these difficult times.

We launched a special page for the Myanmar earthquake (M7.7).

Please visit the link below:

<https://iisee.kenken.go.jp/en/database/quakes/20250328.html>

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# The 29th Global Seismological Observation Course Finished

By IISEE

The Global Seismological Observation Course, which started on January 8th, finished on March 3rd.

The closing ceremony was held at JICA Tsukuba, where all five participants from El Salvador, Kazakhstan, Nepal and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines received their certificates of completion from Mr. Takahashi (Director General of Tsukuba Center, JICA) and Dr. Sawachi (President of the BRI).

During about two months, the participants worked hard to acquire knowledge about global seismological observation and advanced earthquake analysis techniques.

They also had the opportunity to visit the Atomic Bomb Dome and Peace Memorial Museum in Hiroshima and learn about the reality of the atomic bombing.

We hope that the participants will be able to introduce the knowledge and experience they have gained in Japan to as many people as possible in their home countries.

We look forward to seeing the participants go on to achieve great things in the future.



Mr. TAKAHASHI Makoto,  
Director General,  
Tsukuba Center, Japan  
International Cooperation Agency



Dr. SAWACHI Takao,  
President of BRI



Ms. SATO Aoi, Assistant Director, Arms Control  
and Disarmament Division, Disarmament,  
Non-Proliferation and Science Department,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan





## Closing Ceremony Speech on behalf of the Global Seismological Observation Course Participants



By Ms. HENRY Leanka Rhonelle Teshani ( Saint Vincent and the Grenadines )

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**Mr. Makoto Takahashi**- Director General of the Tsukuba Center, Japan International Cooperation Agency

**Dr. Takao Sawachi**- President of the Building Research Institute

**Ms. Aoi Sato**- Assistant Director- Arms Control and Disarmament Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Honorable sensei, assistants and fellow participants;**

Good morning;

Good morning and Farewell!

We have reached the end of the 29th Global Seismological Observation course, and as the first participant from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, it is my greatest privilege to address this prestigious audience. Since the launch of this course in 1995 by the IISEE in collaboration with various institutions, 302 participants from 80 countries are now certified to support the verification regime of CTBT.

On behalf of this year's participants, please allow me to express my sincere gratitude to all those who have contributed to the planning and execution of this instructive course and for the knowledge and skills that were imparted to us.

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan,
- The Japan International Cooperation Agency,
- The Building Research Institute and the International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering,
- The Japan Meteorological Agency,
- The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization,
- The National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience, and
- The different universities involved.

As the only country that has felt the consequences of an atomic bombing, Japan has made significant effort in maintaining a peaceful global environment by supporting the CTBT through the collaboration of various institutes. Since nuclear explosion tests are crucial to the development of nuclear weapons, the Japanese government initiated the Global Seismology Observation Course to train earthquake scientists worldwide on how to distinguish between natural earthquakes and nuclear tests.

The last two months of coursework and exercises were very intense, but we are extremely appreciative of all the Sensei who offered their extensive knowledge of seismology, the CTBTO verification system, and several techniques for differentiating between nuclear testing and natural earthquakes. Their expertise, commitment, and patience produced a well-rounded learning atmosphere that promoted stimulating conversations that broadened our perspective.

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The study trip to the Kansai region shed light on the negative effects of destructive earthquakes, nuclear explosions as well as the history of earthquake monitoring instruments. A visit to the Hokudan Earthquake Memorial Park and the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution highlighted the importance of preserving affected areas to increase public awareness and allowing citizens and foreigners to experience the virtual reality of the catastrophic effects of large magnitude earthquakes. The visit to the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Museum created a paradigm shift in our perspective and assumptions of nuclear explosions. The photos of the victims, their preserved possessions as a timestamp of their last moments and their last words relayed by family members; we are unable to relate, so we can only express our sympathies. Atomic bomb survivor Ms. Keiko Ogura made us emotional with a lecture that painted a horrific picture of the dreadful days of the bombing 79 years ago, emphasizing a trauma which cannot be extinguished no matter how much time has passed.

We want to express special thanks to Mr. Hayashida sensei and Ms. Sakuma san. Ms. Sakuma san for her massive support during the course. Ms. Sakuma san was always willing to share with us the Japanese history, tradition, culture and various confectionary. Her warmth and dedication to making sure we were well taking care of is appreciated by all the participants as these little moments helped us to enjoy Japan more. Mr. Hayashida sensei, we thank you for your unyielding guidance and support during this course which made for a meaningful and engaging learning experience. Sensei, left no question unanswered, and clarity was always obtained.

We would also like to express our deepest condolences on the passing of Mr. Sakamoto sensei, who we regrettably never got to meet. May his soul rest in peace.

Ladies and gentlemen, I feel confident in saying that the JICA Tsukuba Center, BRI, and IISEE have served as more than just an institute. Over the last two months, it has been a place where we have made new friends, not just with other participants in the various programs, but also with knowledgeable sensei. This program was instrumental in sharpening our ability as seismologists as we are now able to apply the concepts and skills in our daily work in our respective countries. Furthermore, this course has improved ties between Japan and the participating countries, namely El Salvador, Kazakhstan, Nepal and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Thank you.

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## **From the Exchange of Opinions with Former Participants (IISEE Online Alumni Association) 《Serialization, Part 2》**

We will publish a series of speeches given at the exchange meeting with former participants (IISEE Online Alumni Meeting) held on December 6th last year, together with the GRIPS/BRI co-hosted symposium.

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**Speech by Sos Margaryan, Ex-participant IISEE, 2000-2001 (S-Course), National Survey for Seismic Protection, Director**

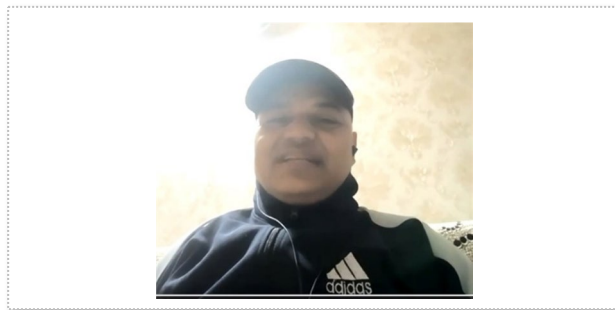


Hello, everyone. It's very nice, and I am very glad to see all of you facially, our lecturers, and colleagues. I'm Sos Margaryan from Armenia. Just because we have only 3-4 minutes to talk, I will quickly introduce myself. I was a JICA participant in the 2000-2001 Seismology Course. After that, I came back to Armenia, and between 2005 and 2007, I was a JSPS fellow in Japan again in IISEE. After that, I came back to Armenia, and I'm now the director of our National Survey for Seismic Protection, which has very big international collaborations, including JICA, CTBTO, International Atomic Energy Agency, etc.

Now, our duty is seismic hazard assessment in general seismic protection, and we're still in collaboration with IISEE. Now, we have participants in the short Earthquake Engineering course.

That is all I want to say. I'm very, very thankful for this opportunity. Also, I repeatedly say that the knowledge we received in IISEE is still very useful. Thank you very much. That is all.

**Speech by Mukunda Bhattarai, Ex-participant IISEE, 2004-2005, 2013-2014 (S-Course), Department of Mines and Geology, Senior Divisional Geologist (Planning, Program and Information section chief)**



Good afternoon, everybody. It's nice to meet you all.

I'm Mukunda Bhattarai from Nepal. I participated in the one-year Seismology course in 2004-2005, just before this course became a master's program of disaster management in collaboration with GRIPS. I also participated in the 2013-2014 course as a master's student at IISEE in collaboration with GRIPS. And later, I participated in short-term courses and individual courses several times at IISEE.

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We are now encouraging our young colleagues to take part in the Global Seismological Course and regular courses at IISEE. The course we studied at IISEE has been a great contribution for disaster mitigation activities in Nepal and its government.

Thank you.

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## Greetings

**By Mr. IITAKE Yoshihiro, Head of Administration Division, IISEE**

My name is Iitake Yoshihiro, and I have been appointed as the Head of Administration Division at the IISEE, from the Geospatial Information Division of the Real Estate and Construction Economy Bureau of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

I would like to make use of my previous experience and work with the staff at the IISEE to support the lectures given by the lecturers and the efforts of the participants, so please look forward to it.



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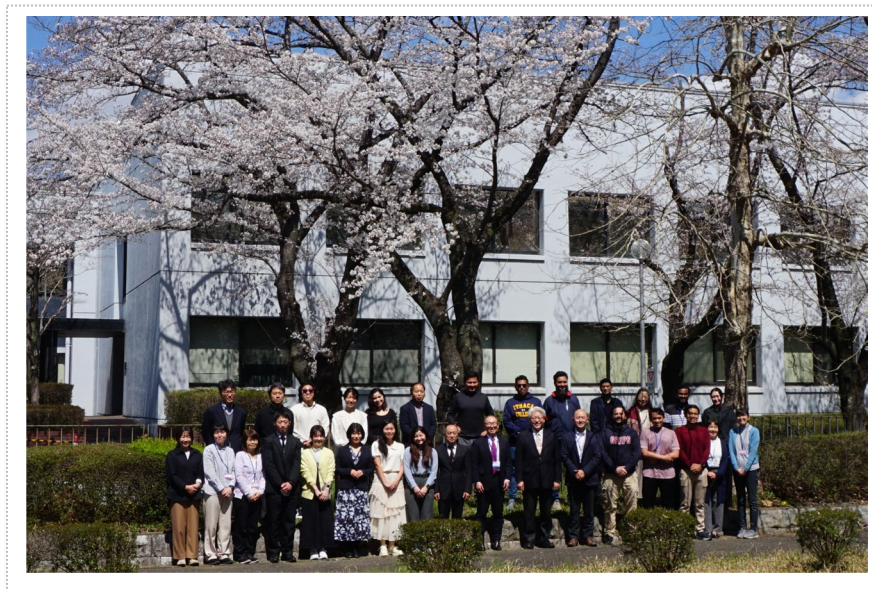
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## (Short Report) Group Photo with Cherry Blossoms

**By IISEE**

The cherry blossoms in front of the IISEE are in full bloom.

We took a commemorative photo of the participants and the staff of the IISEE, with Dr. Hiroshi FUKUYAMA and Dr. Hiroshi HASEGAWA, who have been newly appointed as the President and Vice President of the BRI, respectively, as of April 1st.





## ■ Contact Us

The IISEE Newsletter is intended as a go-between for IISEE and ex-participants.

We encourage you to contribute reports and articles to this newsletter. Please let us know your current activities in your country.

We also welcome your co-workers and friends to register on our mailing list.

[iiseenews@kenken.go.jp](mailto:iiseenews@kenken.go.jp)

<https://iisee.kenken.go.jp/en/>



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