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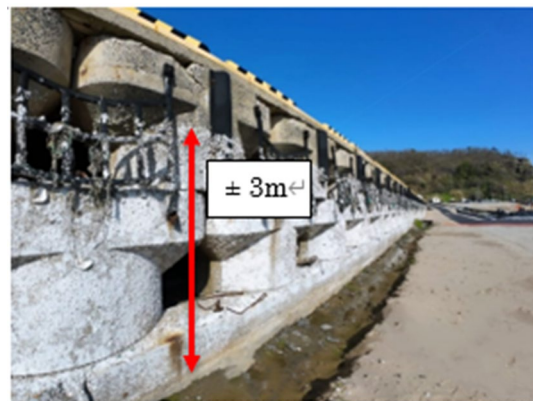
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Report on Noto Peninsula Study Trip

By Mr. ROHMAN Hadi Nur (Seismology Course, INDONESIA)

The study trip to Noto was a very valuable experience. We learned a lot from this visit, both about the scientific aspects of the causes of the disaster and its impacts on the environment and society. We had the opportunity to observe the impacts of the Noto earthquake directly from various perspectives, from geology to social.

On the first day, we visited Kaiso Port. The port is in a fault zone with a reverse fault mechanism. In this place, we observed clear evidence of land deformation and uplift due to the earthquake, which reached a height of up to 4 meters. It was the first time I had seen a natural phenomenon of this kind — an extraordinary experience that may only occur once in thousands of years. Along the way, we also saw other damage, such as road cracks and landslides, indicating that this area experienced significant strong ground motion.



Evidence of Uplift at Kaiso Port

On the other hand, we also highlighted the social impact of the Noto earthquake. A source said that "the main source of income in Ishikawa Prefecture is tourism. The earthquake on January 1, 2024, caused a drastic decrease in tourists". Several popular destinations, such as ports and markets, were severely damaged and have not fully recovered. Areas such as Wajima City and Suzu, which have relatively small populations and are dominated by older people, face significant challenges in the recovery process. These conditions raise concerns about the future of these areas after the disaster. However, the spirit of the community to recover is very inspiring. At night in Nanao City, I spoke with a young man who was selling food. He said that when the earthquake occurred, he was abroad. As soon as he heard the news that the quake had hit his hometown, he decided to return and help rebuild the city with his community. This story shows the spirit of cooperation and the strong determination of the community in dealing with disasters.

In conclusion, this visit taught me that disasters are not just natural phenomena and physical damage but also challenges for the affected community. Geological and social conditions are special challenges in the post-disaster recovery process. Similar conditions may occur in our country (Indonesia) in the future. Therefore, we need to improve and prepare ourselves. I returned from Noto not only bringing knowledge and experience but also a greater sense of responsibility as a prospective seismologist working in disaster: to continue learning, sharing, and being present for the community. Finally, I close this writing by praying that the earthquake-affected community of the Noto Peninsula will be given strength. Hopefully, the recovery process there will run smoothly. Ganbatte Noto, Ganbatte Ishikawa.



Road cracks taken on the way to Nanao city

The earthquake that struck the Noto Peninsula was a devastating event that radically changed the lives of thousands. With a magnitude of 7.6, the quake impacted a coastal region characterized by small and often vulnerable communities. The force of the shaking resulted in hundreds of deaths and left many others injured or missing. While official figures are still being updated, the deep human and structural damage is evident.

The destruction affected homes, schools, temples, ports, and roads, leaving parts of the region cut off for days. Even one year and five months after the disaster, many residents still live in temporary housing structures that were not designed for long-term use. The local government has set a two-year deadline for residents to decide whether to return to their original homes or relocate permanently. However, many areas remain covered in debris and the remnants of destroyed houses, illustrating the lengthy and complex recovery process.

The loss of employment sources has profoundly altered the social dynamics of the region. Key sectors such as tourism, fishing, and agriculture have been severely impacted. Communities that once thrived on strong social bonds now find themselves fragmented. While the resilience of the people is undeniable, the pain, uncertainty, and emotional toll from a disaster of this magnitude are equally undeniable.

Visiting the area left me with a profound reflection on how disasters can affect society. They don't just destroy infrastructure; they shatter dreams, history, and entire ways of life. Even after all this time, suffering persists when people cannot regain anything close to what they once had. This situation also serves as a reminder of our vulnerability to disasters. It raises a vital question: how would our own countries, possibly with fewer resources and less risk management capacity, withstand such an event? This issue must be analyzed from both a technical or scientific perspective and, most importantly, from a human one.



Rubble from houses affected by the earthquake
(Suzu City)



Shiroyone Senmaida Rice Terrace Detour. The arrow
represents the most open uplift on the site.

KEIJU MEDICAL CENTER: SUCCESS IN DISASTER AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Keiju General Hospital in Nanao City consists of three buildings: the Main Building, Ward 3, and Ward 5. Ward 3 and Ward 5 were retrofitted for earthquake resistance. The 2011 Tohoku earthquake motivated the hospital administration to adopt seismic isolation and in 2013, they constructed the Main Building with a seismic isolation system.

This decision was validated during the 2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake. Despite being earthquake-resistant, Ward 3 and Ward 5 suffered minor exterior damage, including fallen ceilings and broken sprinklers. On the other hand, the seismically isolated Main Building remained completely undamaged and fully operational. This allowed the hospital to immediately establish an "Earthquake Response Headquarters" on the third floor of the Main Building and transfer 113 patients there to continue treatment without interruption.

The experience indicated the critical importance of maintaining hospital functionality during disasters. Seismic isolation proved to be a highly effective solution, enabling uninterrupted medical services.



Picture 1: Seismic isolation device and sketch board to measure seismic response of isolation system at Keiju Medical Center

Before visiting Keiju Medical Center, when I watched their YouTube videos showing how they responded during the earthquake disaster, I was deeply impressed by the strength and dedication of the staff. They not only served food to those affected but also motivated the children by playing and spending time with them. Despite the difficult conditions, they continued their work without showing signs of tiredness. Their resilience and kindness stood out in every moment. I have watched many superhero movies in my life, but after seeing these real-life acts of courage and compassion, I truly believe the staff at Keiju Medical Center are the real superheroes.



Picture 2: We are with the real superheroes, staff of Keiju Medical Center.

The Second “Strengthening Seismic Disaster Risk Reduction Countermeasures for Critical Buildings Course” Began

By IISEE

We have been conducting the IISEE training course “Strengthening Seismic Disaster Risk Reduction Countermeasures for Critical Buildings” since last year. The Course is intended to improve earthquake disaster countermeasures for critical buildings (government buildings, hospitals, fire departments, police departments, etc.) that serve as bases during disasters, so that emergency response and administrative services are not disrupted when disasters occur.

This year, we have nine researchers and engineers selected from eight countries, including new participants from Morocco, North Macedonia, the Philippines, and Türkiye.

The opening ceremony was held at the Building Research Institute (BRI) on May 23rd, featuring introductions of the people involved and welcoming remarks by Dr. Fukuyama, President of the BRI, and Mr. Takahashi, Director General of the Tsukuba Center of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Participants will spend approximately eight weeks learning the latest technologies and knowledge related to strengthening earthquake resistance and post-disaster response through lectures and other activities.



Dr. FUKUYAMA Hiroshi,
President of BRI



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



Dr. KITA, Chief Research Scientist, awarded the 6th Nishida Prize from Japan Geoscience Union

By IISEE

Dr. Saeko Kita, Chief Research Scientist, has been awarded the 6th Nishida Prize for Promotion of Earth and Planetary Science by the Japan Geoscience Union on May 28, 2025. This award recognizes her research achievements derived from innovative perspectives in the field of Earth and planetary sciences, as well as her high international standing as a distinguished mid-career researcher.



(Short Report) Start of Individual Study and Send-off Party

By IISEE



The IISEE annual training course 2024-25, which began in October 2024, completed its group training (basic and applied lectures in each field) on May 16. We held a send-off party for the start of individual study (research guidance on individual themes), which began on May 19. Several participants are conducting their individual study in distant locations.



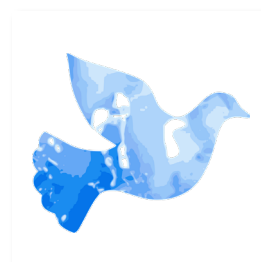
Contact Us

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.

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