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International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering BRI Japan

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2025 Global Seismological Observation -Peacekeeping and Earthquake Disaster Mitigation- Program Began

By IISEE

The opening ceremony for this training course, the Global Seismological Observation, was held on January 7th at the Building Research Institute (BRI).

This year, we welcomed researchers and engineers engaged in earthquake observation operations from seven countries: Albania (1), India (1), Indonesia (1), Kazakhstan (2), Tonga (1), Nepal (1), and the Philippines (1).

*The numbers in parentheses indicate the number of participants.

At the opening ceremony, following the welcoming remarks from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Tsukuba Center, and the BRI, Ms. DOSSAIBEKOVA Samal from Kazakhstan delivered a speech on behalf of the participants.



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



Ms. MORIGUCHI Kanako, Director General, Tsukuba Center, Japan International Cooperation Agency



Dr. FUKUYAMA Hiroshi,
President of BRI



Ms. DOSSAIBEKOVA Samal (Kazakhstan)

This program, commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been conducted since 1995 as an international contribution project to promote nuclear disarmament and prevent earthquake disasters. We are collaborating with the Japan Meteorological Agency, the Japan Weather Association, and the JICA.

The goal of this program is to acquire the seismic observation and analysis techniques necessary to detect and identify nuclear tests. Furthermore, as we added the subtitle to the program title "Peacekeeping and Earthquake Disaster Mitigation", we organized the program so that participants can also learn about earthquake disasters and disaster mitigation technologies in Japan, such as earthquake early warning systems.

This program runs for approximately two months, until March 2nd.



Group Photo

Report on Study Trip

Mele Siale Manu (G-Course 2026)

As part of the Global Seismological Observation Course, the study trip to Hiroshima and the Kansai region provided valuable insights into the impacts of large-scale disasters and reinforced the critical importance of earthquake monitoring and disaster risk reduction. The visits highlighted both the human consequences of extreme events and the scientific and institutional efforts required to reduce disaster risks.

The visit to the Atomic Bomb Dome and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, together with the talk by an A-bomb survivor, provided a powerful reminder of the devastating and long-lasting impacts nuclear bombs can have on human lives, communities, and the environment. These visits emphasized that, beyond physical damage, bombings leave strong psychological, social, and intergenerational effects.

For professionals involved in earthquake observation, this experience underscored the ethical responsibility of scientists to ensure that monitoring systems are reliable and timely, as they can detect nuclear testing anywhere in the world.

The visits to the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution, the Nojima Fault on Awaji Island, and the Abuyama Observatory directly complemented the technical objectives of the earthquake observation course. Observing the Nojima Fault provided a rare opportunity to see surface fault rupture associated with the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, strengthening the connection between seismic records and geological evidence. The Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution demonstrated how lessons from past earthquakes are preserved and translated into public education, policy, and preparedness measures. The visit to Abuyama Observatory highlighted the importance of long-term seismic monitoring, proper station maintenance, and continuous data collection in understanding seismic behaviour and improving hazard assessments. Together, these visits showed how earthquake monitoring forms the foundation for disaster preparedness, early warning, and informed decision-making.

Experiencing both the atomic bomb sites and earthquake-related locations was emotionally impactful. The scale of human loss and suffering was deeply moving and reinforced the seriousness of the work carried out by earthquake scientists and monitoring agencies. As a participant in this course, the study trip strengthened my commitment to earthquake observation, reminding me that behind every seismic signal are real communities whose safety depends on accurate monitoring, preparedness, and effective communication. These experiences have further motivated me to contribute responsibly and diligently to disaster risk reduction efforts in my home country.

We participated in a four-day educational study visit to Hiroshima, Kobe, and Kyoto as part of the Global Seismological Observation Course. This visit was both academically enriching and meaningful, combining scientific learning with deep human experiences related to disasters and resilience.

We went to Hiroshima and visited the Atomic Bomb Dome. A powerful symbol of the destruction caused by the atomic bombing on August 6, 1945. We attended a lecture by Ms. Keiko Ogura, an atomic bomb survivor. It was a deeply emotional and devastating moment for me, and no words can express the pain and suffering they had to go through. Her words still live in my heart: "War leaves us with invisible scars that can never be healed." Hearing this made history feel painfully real. It reminded me that behind every disaster are real human lives, each carrying memories, loss, and a deep, lasting pain that time cannot erase.

The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum exhibits photographs and personal belongings of victims that made me feel sad but also hope, as the museum strongly conveys a message of peace and the importance of preventing such tragedies in the future.



Atomic Bomb Dome

As part of the study trip we visited the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution in Kobe. There, we learned about the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake (Kobe earthquake) and how Japan has improved its disaster preparedness since then. The information about recovery efforts, disaster education, and community resilience was very informative.

We also visited the Nojima Fault Preservation Museum. Observing the preserved fault rupture helped me understand the surface faulting and ground displacement during earthquakes, effectively linking theoretical concepts with direct geological evidence. Another meaningful experience was the earthquake simulation. Having experienced the devastating Mw 7.8 Nepal Gorkha earthquake on April 25, 2015, it reminded me of the fear such events create and highlighted the serious impact earthquakes have on human lives.

This study visit was a memorable experience for me. It helped me gain valuable scientific knowledge and also made me reflect deeply on human suffering, resilience, and the importance of disaster preparedness. I believe the lessons I learned during this visit will be very useful for my future work and for contributing to disaster risk reduction in my home country.

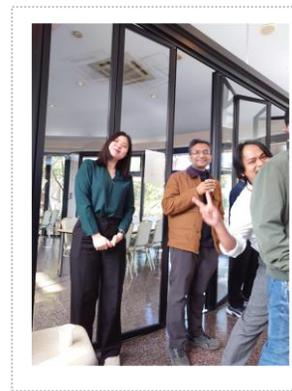


Nojima Fault Preservation Museum

(Short Report) International Friendship Party

By IISEE

On February 4th, we held an International Friendship Exchange Meeting with participants from our ongoing training programs: the IISEE Annual Training Course and the Global Seismological Observation Course.





The Activities of Ex-Participants 《Serialization, Part1》

By IISEE

Name: Jesús Manuel Prado Meza

Course participated: 1979-1980 Earthquake Engineering Course

Affiliation/Position:

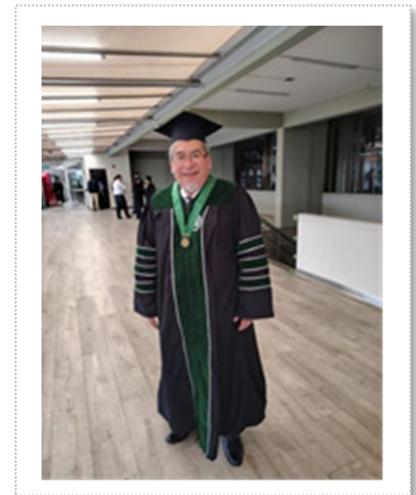
Dean of the Faculty of Law and Political Science – Ricardo Palma University

Member of the Technical Committees of the standards: NTP E.050 Soils and Foundations / and of NTP E.031 Standard of Seismic Isolators.

President of the American Society of Civil Engineers - Grupo PERU (ASCE – Perú)

【Recent activities】

Qualifying member, on behalf of the College of Engineers of Peru, for slope stability studies in projects of the Costa Verde – Miraflores – Lima – Perú.



Name: Elhamy Aly Tarabees (Egypt)

Course participated: 2003-2004 Seismology Course

Affiliation/Position: Damanhour University, University President

【Recent activities】

I worked as the International Relations Office manager at Damanhour University. This position enabled me to build some international bridges with many universities in the USA and the EU, and we completed many research projects in seismology and geophysical applications. Then I got the faculty of science dean position for 4 years, and finally I became the University President. From my new position, I would like to expand our role in teaching seismology and hazard mitigation.

Name: Jonatán Arreola Manzano

Course participated: 2016-2017 Seismology Course

Affiliation

Mexican National Center for Disaster Prevention (CENAPRED)

Centro Nacional de Prevención de Desastres (in Spanish)

<https://www.gob.mx/cenapred>

Position : Deputy Director of Seismic Risk

【Recent activities】

Our Department conducts technical and scientific research to analyze the origins, behavior, and impacts of earthquakes. It identifies earthquake hazards and vulnerabilities to develop risk scenarios and prevention strategies. Core functions include supervising technical studies, assessing earthquake-affected areas, and producing technical-scientific reports for national emergency authorities. The unit also provides the technical basis for official emergency and disaster earthquake declarations and represents the institution on the national and international seismic hazard committees.

We are involved in the Satreps-Tsunami project, in collaboration with the School of Engineering of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and El Salvador, to assess earthquake and tsunami hazards in the Port of Manzanillo, Mexico.

<https://compoundrr.org/2-evaluacion-de-riesgos-de-desastres-compuestos-en-ciudades-portuarias-causados-por-terremotos-y-tsunamis/>



Name: Park, Sun Cheon

Course participated: 1998-1999 Seismology Course

Affiliation/Position: Korea Meteorological Administration, Director of Earthquake and Volcano Research Division

【Recent activities】

We have promoted research on the observation and warning of earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanoes, and managed the related research projects.

We, with our colleagues, are conducting research and development to improve the accuracy of earthquake analysis technology, develop earthquake observation systems using low-cost sensors, improve tsunami numerical models and develop observation equipment, and develop volcano ash propagation models to consider the impact of overseas volcanic eruptions on the Korean peninsula.



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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