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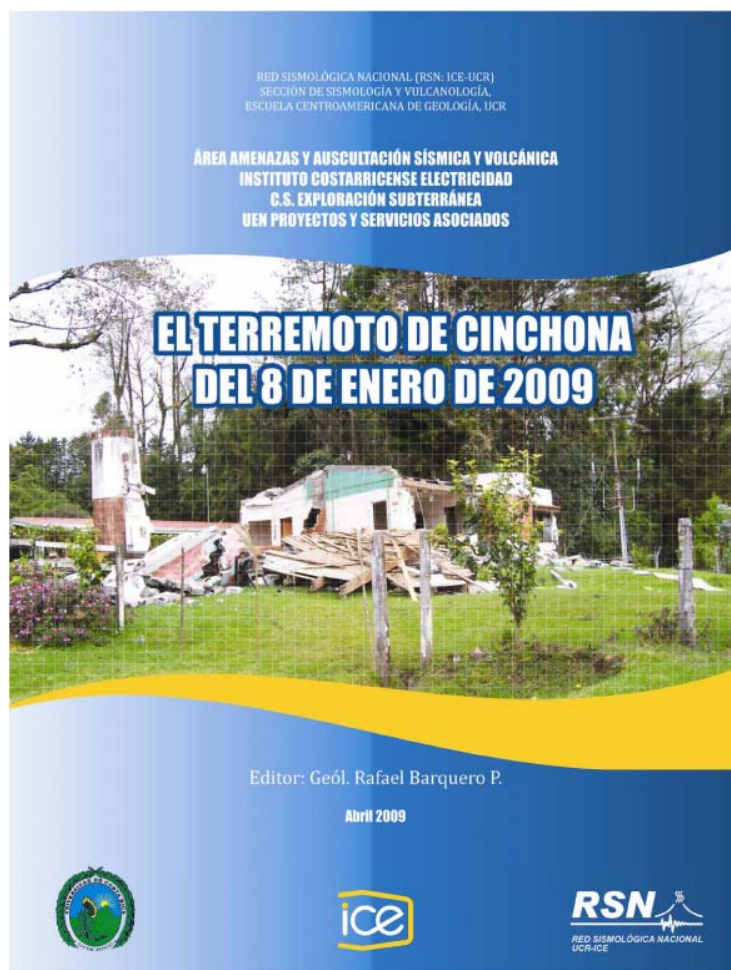
[1] New website of the BRI Strong Motion Observation is opened

The Building Research Institute (BRI) opened a new website for the strong motion observation. The website provides information related to strong motion observation for buildings and the database containing thousands of records obtained in the BRI strong motion network. The URL of the website is <http://smo.kenken.go.jp/>

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[2] Report on Cinchona (Costa Rica) Earthquake on January 8, 2009

On Thursday January 8, 2009 a strong earthquake shook the northern Central Valley of Costa Rica, 40 km north of the capital city, San Jose. The earthquake had a magnitude Mw 6.2, a depth of 4.6 km, a maximum intensity of IX at the mesoseismic area and is associated with a local fault named Angel-Varablanca -NW direction SE-, located on the eastern flank of Poas volcano. The present activity started on January 7, 2009, with a precursor event of magnitude 4.6 Ml, which occurred in the same area. The activity was followed by many aftershocks for more than three weeks and more than 1600 events of magnitudes greater than 2.5 Ml. Serious damage was reported on local roads, mainly at the area between Cinchona and Varablanca, due to landslides. Homes and some buildings at this rural area had severe damage and generated alarm in the population at the central part of the country. 25 people died and 17 people are missing. Two hydroelectric plants in operation of Instituto Costarricense de Electricidad (ICE) located in the area (PH Toro II and PH Cariblanco) were partially affected. Electricity service suffered serious breakdowns in the area of the epicenter and in the metropolitan area was halted for an hour. Telephone services are also saturated by at least two hours. Historically, the northern part of the Central Valley, had been affected by several important earthquakes, as were those that occurred in 1851 (M 6.0), 1888 (M 6.0), 1911 (M 6.1), 1912 (M 6.1) and 1955 (M 5.8), all of them related to local faults. The latest seismic activity before the earthquake of January 8, 2009 was a seismic swarm in the same area on June and July 2005, related to the Angel-Varablanca fault, a fault previously known and described.



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This report and other reference materials on the Cinchona Earthquake are available on IISEE website.

<http://iisee.kenken.go.jp/special/20090108costarica.html>

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We send this IISEE Newsletter to ex-participants whose e-mail addresses are known. The IISEE send you new information actively and accept your contribution at any time. In order to enlarge our IISEE network, we'd like to ask you to invite your fellow ex-participants whose e-mail addresses are unknown to us to join us. We welcome your comments about the IISEE Newsletter. Please feel free to send us your comments and opinions.

Email: iiseenews@kenken.go.jp

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

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