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1 Tachihara Tsukuba Japan 305-0802 tel+81-29-879-0678 facsim+81-29-864-6777

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Opening Ceremony for the 2025-2026 IISEE Annual Training Course

By IISEE

The 66th opening ceremony for the IISEE annual training course was held at the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Tsukuba Center on Wednesday, October 1st. The training course began at the University of Tokyo in 1960 and transferred to the Building Research Institute (BRI) in 1962.

Selected from 24 applicants representing 11 countries, 17 participants from 9 countries will be divided into three courses: Seismology, Earthquake Engineering, and Tsunami Disaster Mitigation. They will attend lectures tailored to their respective specializations and visit earthquake-affected areas in Japan to learn the latest information and insights.

All staff members will strive to ensure that this training course is a fulfilling experience for the participants.

We hope the participants enjoy their time living in Japan and sincerely appreciate the continued support of all stakeholders involved in this training course.



Mr. YAMAGUCHI Kazutoshi,
Director of Training Program Division,
Tsukuba Center, Japan
International Cooperation Agency



Dr. FUKUYAMA Hiroshi,
President of BRI



Dr. TAMURA Hideyuki,
Director of DMP Program



Participants Representative Greetings
Ms. MAIMUNA Afra Kansa
Indonesia, T-Course



Group Photo

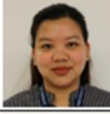
New Participants of 2025-26

By IISEE

Seismology Course(6 person)

No.	Photo	Country	Name	Position / Affiliation
1		INDONESIA	Mr. AKHADI Muhammad	Seismological Observer, Directorate of Earthquake and Tsunami, Indonesian Agency for Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics
2		INDONESIA	Ms. ALI Trisna Malia La	Seismic Analyst/Seismologist, Regional Seismic Center III, Meteorological, Climatological, and Geophysical Agency
3		PHILIPPINES	Mr. ABITANG Miguel Florido (Mike)	Science Research Analyst, Seismological Observation and Earthquake Prediction Division, Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology
4		PHILIPPINES	Ms. ROSANA Antonella (Ella)	Science Research Assistant, Seismic and Tsunami Data Management - Seismological Observation and Earthquake Prediction Division, Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology
5		THAILAND	Ms. PROMSUK Chutimon	Meteorologist, Thai Meteorological Department/Earthquake Observation Division, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society
6		TÜRKIYE	Mr. SEZER Selim (Selo)	AFAD Expert (Geophysical Engineer) , General Directorate of Earthquake and Risk Reduction, Earthquake Dept, Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD)

Tsunami Disaster Mitigation Course (4 person)

No.	Photo	Country	Name	Position / Affiliation
1		INDONESIA	Ms. MAIMUNA Afra Kansa	Staff, Earthquake and Tsunami Mitigation Dissemination Team, Directorate of Earthquake and Tsunami, Meteorological, Climatological, and Geophysical Agency
2		PHILIPPINES	Ms. GALLARDO Francess Liene	Science Research Assistant, Seismological Observation and Earthquake Prevention Division, Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology
3		PHILIPPINES	Ms. ABLAN Roschele (Chen)	Science Research Analyst, Seismological Observation and Earthquake Division, Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology
4		TONGA	Mr. TUIFUA Tavake Faiana Stuart	Technician, Tonga Meteorological Service, Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications

Earthquake Engineering Course (7 person)

No.	Photo	Country	Name	Position / Affiliation
1		BANGLADESH	Mr. ISLAM Md <u>Saiful</u>	Authorized Officer, Development Control, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha
2		BANGLADESH	Mr. MAHMOOD Mirza <u>Shibli</u>	Sub-Divisional Engineer, PWD Design Division - 3, Public Works Department
3		EL SALVADOR	Mr. CASTRO CARCAMO <u>Rodolfo</u> Antonio	Technician of Geological Monitoring, General Directorate of the Observatory of Threats and Natural Resources, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
4		INDONESIA	Mr. YUNUS Ahmad <u>Fauzi</u>	Researcher, Research Center for Geological Disaster, Research Organization for Earth and Maritime, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)
5		KYRGYZ	Mr. ABDYZHAPAR UULU <u>Adil</u>	Civil engineer, Civil engineering, LLC "Ordo Kurulush Company"
6		MEXICO	Mr. DURAN DURAN Erick <u>Jair</u>	Professor, Civil Engineering Program, Faculty of Higher Studies Acatlan, UNAM
7		MEXICO	Mr. RIVERA ANGELES Sergio <u>Gabriel</u>	Head of Department, Directorate of Works Review Laboratory. Unit of Laboratory Testing "A", Secretariat of the Comptroller General's Office of Mexico City

From the Exchange of Opinions with Former Participants (IISEE Online Alumni Association) 《Serialization, Part 3》

We 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.

Speech by Cristian Arion, Ex-participant IISEE, 1998-1999 (E-Course), Technical University of Civil Engineering of Bucharest, Associate Professor

Ohayougozaimasu from Romania. My name is Cristian Arion, and I had the honour of being a Kenshuin in the Earthquake Engineering Course from 1998 to 1999. During my individual studies, I was supervised by Izuru Okawa, and my research focused on site amplification factors, using earthquake records from the BRI seismic networks installed in the Sendai area. At that time, I visited the Tohoku region, where BRI had installed around 11 downhole seismic stations.



Currently, I am an Associate Professor at the Technical University of Civil Engineering of Bucharest (UTCB). I teach Structural Reliability and Risk Analysis at the undergraduate level, as well as Seismic Risk at the graduate level. Over the past year, I have also been involved in Building Information Modelling (BIM), particularly for the operation and maintenance of buildings.

I would like to mention Professor Taiki Saito, who gave a presentation about the Romanian project. At that time, Saito-san was working at our university, preparing the project as a Japanese specialist assisting with its implementation in Romania. During that project—which lasted eight years—I served as Head of Technical Experimentation for the Soil and Structure Division. I was also involved in introducing new technologies for soil investigation, such as downhole tests, bender elements, and various dynamic laboratory testing methods.

Currently, I am part of the UTCB team responsible for drafting Romania's national building codes, covering earthquake, wind, and snow actions. Over the past years, I've been actively involved in numerous investigations, including major construction projects in Romania. In the past two years, my work has also expanded to dam infrastructure, and I am currently contributing to the development of Romania's first small nuclear reactor, scheduled to begin construction next year.

I sincerely hope that we can initiate a new JICA project. However, since Romania is now a member of the European Union, and JICA primarily focuses on supporting developing countries, this may pose some challenges. Nevertheless, we continue to need support and expertise from Japanese researchers, as their knowledge remains invaluable for advancing earthquake engineering and related fields in Romania and around the globe. We truly miss working with Japanese experts. Their know-how played a crucial role in our progress.

Finally, I would like to thank you very much for being here today. I also wish to extend my warmest greetings to Azuhata-san and to all the Japanese professors who were at BRI in Tsukuba during my time there.

Thank you very much, and I look forward to seeing you again!

(Short Report) Visit from Uzbekistan to the IISEE/BRI

By IISEE

Researchers from Uzbekistan, including Prof. Sirojiddin MIRZAEV (Vice-President, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan) and Prof. Vakhitkhan ISMAILOV (Director, Institute of Seismology, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan), visited IISEE/BRI.

They shared the results of a two-year project on Seismic Hazard Risk Assessment for Tashkent city and discussed the findings with IISEE staff.

After the meeting, we gratefully received souvenirs such as a book introducing the Academy of Sciences and wall decorations from the Institute of Seismology.

Following this, Dr. Watanabe guided the guests through BRI's experimental laboratory.

The delegation included Timur san, a former IISEE participant (2024 Strengthening Seismic Disaster Risk Reduction Countermeasures for Critical Buildings), who played a central role by presenting and interpreting.

We appreciate the support provided by the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Japan during this visit to Japan.

We sincerely thank you for visiting IISEE/BRI.



Presentation by Timur san



Receiving souvenirs



Touring the laboratory building



Commemorative photo



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

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