IISEE Newsletter

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International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering BRI Japan

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In This Issue

JFY 2025 Global Seismological Observation -Peacekeeping and Earthquake Disaster Mitigation- Program Finished

By IISEE

The Global Seismological Observation Course, which started on January 7th, finished on March 2nd.

The closing ceremony was held at JICA Tsukuba, where all eight participants from Albania, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Tonga, Nepal, and the Philippines received their certificates of completion from Ms. Moriguchi (Director General of Tsukuba Center, JICA) and Dr. Fukuyama (President of the BRI).

During about two months, the participants worked hard to acquire knowledge about global seismological observation and advanced earthquake analysis techniques. We hope that the participants will share the knowledge and experience they have gained in Japan with many people in their respective home countries.

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

We look forward to seeing achievements of the participants in the future.

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone involved who supported this program. Thank you very much.

Dr. FUKUYAMA Hiroshi,
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

Group Photo

Group Photo

Speech for Closing Ceremony

By Ms. MATRAKU Kristina

Dear Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan,
the Building Research Institute,
the International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering,
and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.
Dear Sensei, Coordinators, and Course Fellows,
Today, I have the honor of expressing our sincere gratitude on behalf of the 2026 Global Seismological Observation course. Thank you for this heartfelt farewell.

We are grateful for the opportunity to participate in this training course and to represent our countries. It has been a meaningful and enriching journey for all of us.

During this two-month course, we have gained a clearer understanding of global seismology, which is used for monitoring both natural and man-made events.

This course has empathies the vital role of seismology, its technologies and analytical methods at both the local and global levels, from earthquake early warning system and earthquake disaster mitigation to the detection, discrimination and reporting of nuclear tests, a capability that is fundamental for the verification and implementation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, thereby contributing to global stability, and peace. We have learned how essential rapid detection, accurate analysis, and timely information are for both disaster response and global security.

Our three-day study trip to Hiroshima and Kobe allowed us to see the human dimensions of this mission. It reaffirmed that science, history, and humanity are deeply interconnected, and that resilience is built through knowledge and memory, strengthened by international cooperation and the sharing of scientific expertise.

At the end of this course, we have created not only knowledge but also professional connections and lasting friendships.

I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Building Research Institute, the International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency for making this program possible. A special thanks goes to our coordinators, Ms. Yoshida-sensei and Mr. Hayashida sensei, for their constant support, kindness, and for always taking care of us.

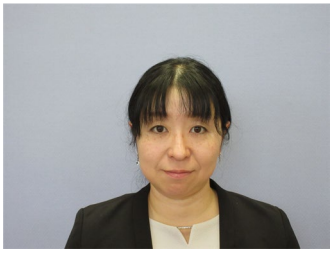
We leave here motivated and committed to applying these lessons in our respective countries.

Thank you!

Arigatou gozaimasu!

Greetings

By Ms. IDE, Mayuko, Chief of Administration Division, IISEE



My name is Ide Mayuko, and I have joined the International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering in April 2026 as the new Chief of Administration Division, succeeding Ms. Goto, who supported the participants for many years.

I am committed to ensuring that our participants' efforts are meaningful and to enhancing the overall value of their training program. I look forward to working with you all.

(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. FUKUYAMA Hiroshi, the President of the BRI, and Dr. HASEGAWA Hiroshi, the Vice President.

The Activities of Ex-Participants《Serialization, Part2》

By IISEE

Name: Robin Onelio Yani Quiyuch (Guatemala)

Course participated: 2012 Global Seismological Observation Course

Affiliation/Position:

National Institute of Seismology, Volcanology, Meteorology and Hydrology (INSIVUMEH) / Head of the Department of Geophysics

【Recent activities】

The Department of Geophysics is one of the three technical departments of INSIVUMEH, the other two being the Department of Meteorology and the Department of Hydrology. As Head of the Department of Geophysics, I have led and participated in various relevant activities, among which the following stand out in recent years.

Modernization of the organizational structure of the Department of Geophysics at INSIVUMEH:

INSIVUMEH was established in 1976, and the Department of Geophysics initially comprised the areas of Seismology and Volcanology. Recently, thanks to governmental support and international cooperation, it has been possible to expand human resources, strengthen technical capacities, and increase geophysical instrumentation. This has enabled the development of an organizational structure that better responds to the country's needs for addressing geological phenomena. The department now includes five technical sections: Seismology, Volcanology, Geology/Applied Geophysics, Instrumentation, and Scientific Computing.

Expansion of the National Seismological Network:

The National Seismological Network (NSN) has experienced significant growth in recent years, resulting in improved efficiency in routine seismic monitoring and better characterization of seismic sources within the

country. This expansion has led to higher-quality data and a more complete seismic catalog, contributing to an improved understanding of seismic hazard and risk. In addition, multiparametric instrumental networks have been expanded at active volcanoes, improving baseline information that supports the understanding of their internal dynamics and volcanic products that pose hazards to nearby populations.

Early warning systems:

Among the most relevant achievements is the recent implementation of the Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) system, which is now available to the public through early alerts and rapid notifications delivered via a mobile phone application. Since its launch in 2024, the system has demonstrated its effectiveness, particularly during two seismic emergencies that occurred in Guatemala in 2025. Another innovative early warning system is the lahar early warning system at Santiaguito Volcano, whose notifications are disseminated through a messaging application to the mobile phones of users located near the volcano. Both systems were developed based on the National Seismological Network, with support from international cooperation. In parallel, operational protocols for tsunami early warning have been strengthened in collaboration with international tsunami warning centers in the Pacific and the Caribbean.

CTBTO:

INSIVUMEH has maintained continuous participation in activities related to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) and continues to operate the Auxiliary Seismic Station (AS037), which was fully upgraded in 2025 with funds provided by the CTBTO through the European Union. In addition, our members have participated in two international Science and Technology conferences (SnT2023 and SnT2025), where scientific results obtained using seismic records from this auxiliary seismic station were presented.

Name: Setyoajie Prayoedhie

Course participated: 2010–2011 Tsunami Disaster Mitigation Course

Affiliation/Position: Indonesian Agency for Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics (BMKG) / Director for Engineering Seismology, Potential Geophysics and Time Code

【Recent activities】

Directing the strategic development of Indonesia's Earthquake Early Warning System (INA-EEWS) prototype, prioritizing seismic mitigation in Jakarta, West Java, Banten, and Lampung. This role involves harmonizing technical geophysical engineering with public policy frameworks to oversee the installation of a comprehensive sensor grid, comprising accelerometers, intensity meters, and borehole sensors. The initiative is driven by a commitment to enhance national resilience, to secure vital infrastructure, and to provide early warning.

Recent publications

By IISEE

1. **Fujii, Y., & Satake, K. (2026)**

The slip distributions of the 1952 and 2025 Kamchatka earthquakes from tsunami waveforms recorded around the Pacific Ocean.

Geophysical Research Letters, 53, e2025GL120682.

https://doi.org/10.1029/2025GL120682

Outline:

This study estimated the sizes and slip distributions of both the 1952 and 2025 Kamchatka earthquakes using state-of-the-art tsunami simulation methods.

The 2025 earthquake had the largest slip (~9 m) at 200 - 400 km SW of the epicenter at a shallow plate interface.

The tsunami heights and waveforms of the 2025 and 1952 earthquakes were very similar.

The 1952 earthquake had an overall size and slip distribution similar to the 2025 event, although the interval was only 73 years.

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

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