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Reports on Tohoku and Niigata Study Trip (Period of for all courses Nov. 7th (Mon) through Nov. 11th (Fri))

(1) *Mr. Jonatan ARREOLA MANZANO (Mexico, Seismology Course)*



The human beings or technology cannot avoid the occurrence of natural hazards (earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, typhoon, landslides, floods, droughts, among others), the occurrence of these is a sign that Earth is a living and dynamic planet. However, to learn living safely and in harmony with the planet, the preventive actions (every country will use the technology according their circumstances) are the most effective tool to avoid the painful consequences when natural hazards become

disasters.

Confucius wrote as: Study the past if you would define the future. To share the knowledge, good practices and lessons learned from disasters in the past are the key to face them and avoid in the future, thus constructing resilient societies. If we can do this, then we will be promoting the disaster risk reduction.

In five days of study trip, we, the participants from natural hazards prone countries had the opportunity to gather various elements in disaster management about two types of earthquakes: The Mid Niigata Pref. Earthquake of October 23, 2004 (Niigata Prefecture Chuetsu Earthquake), inland earthquake in a reverse fault that in conjunction with other natural phenomena, several landslides and natural dams(houses were submerged) in the mountain region of Niigata Prefecture and the 2011 off the Pacific coast of Tohoku Earthquake on March 11, 2011, the largest earthquake ever recorded in Japan that triggered a devastating tsunami.

Also were we able to know efforts from community to recovery and reconstruction, construction of memorial parks, operation of research centers and the government actions. All this elements and others in conjunction are able to improve our response to natural hazards eventualities.

(2) *Mr. Leonardo Alberto ALVARADO GARCIA (Ecuador, Tsunami Disaster Mitigation Course)*



Before coming to Japan, I had only seen tsunami videos and read stories on the internet, and had no way to imagine what it feels like to go through such a hard experience. After this study trip, I feel more compassionate towards those who died and lost their loved ones in the past.

Call for Papers

IISEE Bulletin is now accepting submissions of papers for the seismology, earthquake engineering, and tsunami. Developing countries are targeted, but are not limited.

Your original papers will be reviewed by the editorial members and some experts.

NO submission fee is need.

Try to challenge!!



Comparing Ecuador to Japan, it is disturbing to realize that my country is not yet ready to deal with tsunamis, and it is admirable that this country's culture and technology towards tsunami disaster management is taken very seriously because there is no need to increase the number of casualties due to this natural phenomenon.

The videos and stories that I heard during this trip were very shocking and made me think about how people in Ecuador would react if a tsunami hits our coasts. In the end, I learned two valuable lessons; the first one is try to save myself no matter what, because if my relatives proceed the same way, sooner or later I will meet them. And the second one was not to wait for an information update of the tsunami and instead, look for higher grounds as soon as possible. Nobody knows when the next tsunami will occur but we better be ready to face it.

(3) Mr. Raouf BENCHARIF (Algeria, Earthquake Engineering Course)



Japan has a long history of great earthquakes and the highest frequency of tsunamis in the world. To learn lessons and to have more knowledge about disaster mitigation measures, IISEE, BRI, organized a study trip for one week in the purpose to visit the affected regions by the earthquake, tsunami.

During the first three days, we visited the Miyagi prefecture which was affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 2011. In this prefecture, we had the opportunity to visit: Miyagi Reconstruction, Agency, Ishinomaki Future Support Association, Zuiganji temple...etc. Wherever we went, we were warmly welcomed by the staff and detailed explanations were given of what happened during the 2011 earthquake and the arrangements made during and after the earthquake. We had detailed answers to all our questions.

On the fourth day, we had the opportunity to visit Niigata Prefecture to assess the losses caused by the earthquake in 2004 and to see how they dealt with the country's authorities and as well as the region's population. On that day, I was not only impressed by the material means by the authorities to manage the disaster and to rebuild the city affected by the earthquake but also by behavior the citizens of the region during the crisis their spirit of initiative, their courage, their solidarity and their robustness.

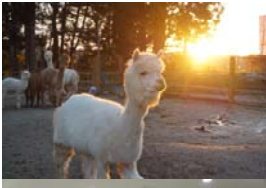
Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the staff of JICA, IISEE and BRI for organizing visits to regions affected by violent earthquakes. These opportunities make us discover the disastrous effects of earthquakes as well as the means of managing such disasters.

(4) Ms. Alejandra Marcela MEMBRENO MARTINEZ (El Salvador, Earthquake Engineering Course)



From November 7 to 11, the 2016-2017 Seismology and Earthquake Engineering courses went on a study trip to the cities of Sendai and Nagaoka, in order to learn and understand a little more about Japan's recovery and rehabilitation technics and programs.

We visited several interesting locations, such as the Zuiganji temple, the NHK New Sendai Broadcast Hall and Tohoku University, where we could learn and familiarize a little more about seismic design, retrofitting and its application according to different cases. These experiences were very interesting and educative of course, and helped us get a better understanding



Enjoy, Now

Contact Us

The IISEE Newsletter is intended to act as a go-between for IISEE and ex-participants.

We encourage you to contribute a report and an article to this newsletter. Please let us know your current activities in your countries.

We also welcome your co-workers and friends to register our mailing list.

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

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

of seismic technology application; but personally I really enjoyed our visits to Ishinomaki City and Yamakoshi town. Why? Because we had the opportunity to remember why we are working hard to improve the structural conditions of our own cities : our people. It was inspiring to see how the population factor is a key to a complete recovery of damaged places: there is no recovery without communities, because not only buildings need attention and strengthening after a disaster. The strength, perseverance, solidarity and strong bonds the communities showed and keep on showing not only to rebuild but to protect and reinforce their cities in order to ensure the people's safety is inspiring, and remind us that we also need to work, in and as a community in order to achieve our goal of building stronger and resilient societies.

This study strip was truly an enrichment activity for all of us. We appreciate everyone for their support and making this kind of trip possible. I hope we can share many more experiences like this and keep on learning from Japan's lessons in the future.

Introduction of IISEE Booth at 16WCEE

By Dr. Toshihide KASHIMA, Senior Research Engineer, IISEE

IISEE will set up a booth of information desk at the venue of 16WCEE, World Conference on Earthquake Engineering in Santiago, Chile on January 9th to 13th, 2017. The booth number is E5 and we will introduce the our training and research activities. Several staff members of IISEE are going to participate the conference and are looking forward to seeing the ex-participants and people involved.

We will have the alumni meeting of IISEE on January 11th in the night. Please come to IISEE booth directly on that day.

Please let us know sending an e-mail to iisee@kenken.go.jp beforehand if you are planning to attend 16WCEE.