



IISEE Newsletter



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International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering BRI Japan

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Completion of Group Training and Start of Individual Study for Annual Training Program

By Dr. Bunichiro Shibazaki, Director of IISEE

The group training program for the IISEE regular course for the academic year 2022-2023 was completed on May 12. During the group training, participants spend about eight months attending lectures and acquiring basic and applied knowledge in each field in one of the following three courses (seismology, earthquake engineering, and tsunami disaster mitigation). All participants in the 2022-2023 course were able to come to Japan from the beginning of the program and have basically attended lectures face-to-face. A 4-day/3-night study trip to the Tohoku region was also organized during the week of April 24. Participants in the Seismology and Tsunami Disaster Mitigation courses attended two- or three-day lectures at the Japan Meteorological Agency during the week of May 8. Participants of the earthquake engineering course visited the University of Tsukuba Hospital to see the site of a seismic isolation retrofit on May 12.

Now, the individual training program started on May 15, and three participants stay in a distant place to receive individual training instruction. We hope that all the participants will be able to obtain useful research results for earthquake and tsunami disaster prevention in their home countries and earn a master's degree. We would like to express our respect for the efforts of the participants and our sincere gratitude to all the lecturers.

Annual Training Course

<https://iisee.kenken.go.jp/en/training/train/annual/>

IISEE Net and Training

[Synopsis Database](#)

[Bulletin Database](#)

[IISEE E-learning](#)

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[IISEE-UNESCO Lecture Note](#)

Report on Tohoku Study Trip

By Hany Abuelnaga Amen Adam from Egypt (S-course)

On March 11, 2011, at 14:46 JST (5:46 GMT) large earthquake hit the Tohoku region with a magnitude of around 9.0, making it one of Japan's largest earthquakes ever recorded. I am very pleased to get this opportunity to visit Fukushima and Miyagi prefectures on the study field trip with my classmates in S & E-Courses for four days (April 24-27, 2023).

During this trip, we visited many places that witnessed the catastrophe of the earthquake and accompanying tsunami and how it affected them. We learned how the Japanese government dealt with this disaster and how thousands of residents evacuated from these stricken areas, and what happened after that from the rehabilitation of these areas and the steps taken to reduce the impact of such disasters on the future, such as building sidewalks on sea coasts and evacuating areas near sea coasts that may be more vulnerable to disaster than others. Among these areas we visited during this trip is Arahama Elementary School, located in the city of Sendai established in 1873 and located 700 m from the sea coast. We learned the children, teachers, and residents escaped to the roof of the school to protect themselves from the tsunami waves that reached the height of the second floor until they evacuated using helicopters. We also visited The Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum, a museum dedicated to preserving the memory of the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster that occurred on March 11, 2011. It is located in Futaba town, Fukushima Prefecture, one of the areas most affected by the disaster. Finally, I would like to thank the IISEE staff, my classmates in the S & E-courses and the JICA coordinator who accompanied me on this trip.



Group Photo (S-course & E-course)

Earthquakes

Reports of Recent Earthquakes

Utsu Catalog

Earthquake Catalog

By Nurul Nasuha binti Md Zin from Malaysia (E-course)

The study trip to the Tohoku District in Japan was an emotional and eye-opening experience that left a lasting impact on all of us. Witnessing the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake and exploring the devastated areas made us realize the profound magnitude of the disaster and the immense loss suffered by the people. The lessons we learned from this experience are invaluable.

The trip taught us the importance of empathy and support for those affected by natural disasters. Seeing the haunting exhibits and listening to the stories of survivors at the Miyagi 3.11 Tsunami Disaster Memorial Museum made us deeply empathize with their pain and suffering. It reinforced the need for compassion and assistance to help rebuild shattered lives. Next, this study trip emphasized the significance of preparedness and proactive measures. The earthquake-resistant design of the NHK Sendai Broadcasting Station and the sturdy construction of Arahama Elementary School showcased the importance of resilient infrastructure. We realized the critical role of early warning systems, effective evacuation protocols, and community unity in mitigating the impact of future disasters.

In conclusion, the study trip to the Tohoku District in Japan was a profound and transformative experience. It taught us the importance of empathy, support, preparedness, and learning from past tragedies. It inspired us to become advocates for proactive measures and resilient communities. Above all, it reminded us of the strength of the human spirit in the face of adversity and the power of unity in overcoming challenges.



At the Arahama Elementary School

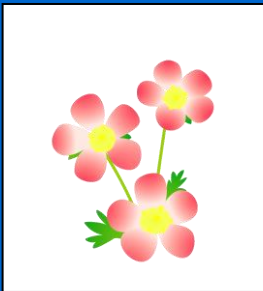
By Malodali Joji Sakaraia from Fiji (T-course)

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you so much to the JICA representatives (Mr. Taniguchi) and IISEE/BRI lecturers (Dr. Fujii and Dr. Tsuji) for such a wonderful experience

in guiding and teaching us during the study trip. All in all, for me personally, it was a really good experience in learning, enjoying the beautiful scenery, and also at the same time trying new foods. The lecturers gave us great explanations during the trip. I was able to see most of the places with my own eyes, whereas I only watched the devastation caused by earthquakes and tsunamis in YouTube videos and previous lectures. It was also emotional as well, looking at videos and listening to the stories of those who survived. I would like to express my condolences to families who lost their loved ones during this tragedy.

It is also the first time for me to try on activities we learned in class, like taking soil samples of places inundated by the tsunami using a peat sampler. The second one was the measurement of the tsunami run-up height using a laser distance meter. These activities were beneficial since they will be more applicable to my daily work when I return.

To sum up, this trip was eye-opening and informative, and I enjoyed every single day of it. I must comment on this great initiative in allowing participants to observe the destruction that can be caused by these two natural disasters, namely earthquakes and tsunamis.



Group Photo (T-course)

Dr. Harsh K. Gupta Receives IASPEI Medal

By Dr. Bunichiro Shibazaki, Director of IISEE

We have received notification that an ex-participant Dr. Harsh K. Gupta will receive the IASPEI Medal. He will receive the IASPEI Medal this year during the IUGG GA scheduled in Berlin in July 2023.

Please see the IASPEI Newsletter for more details.

<http://iaspei.org/newsletters/2020-2029> (2023 April)

“The IASPEI (the International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior) medal is awarded for merits in seismology: for sustaining IASPEI goals and activities and for scientific merits in the field of seismology and physics of the Earth's interior.”

Dr. Harsh K. Gupta is a former participant who attended the 1966-1967 annual training course and the advanced course in Seismology in 1971.

He held multiple significant positions throughout his distinguished career, including serving as the Director of the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) in Hyderabad for nearly a decade from 1992.

He also served as a Member of the National Disaster Management Authority of India (Status: Minister of State, Government of India, 2011-2014), Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Ocean Development (2001-2005), Director of NGRI (1992-2001), and Advisor to the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India (1990-1992).

Dr. Gupta's expertise extended globally as he acted as an Advisor/Consultant to UNESCO, the Commonwealth Science Council, the International Atomic Energy Authority, ICSU, and other organizations.

In 1986, Dr. Gupta successfully forecasted a medium-term earthquake of magnitude $M \sim 8$ in the northeast region of India, which occurred on August 6, 1988. Moreover, he chaired the Steering Committee of the Global Seismic Hazard Assessment Program (G-SHAP) from 1992 to 1999. Notably, Dr. Gupta conducted detailed studies on the genesis of triggered earthquakes in the Koyna region and achieved successful short-term earthquake forecasts. One of his remarkable achievements was the establishment of India's tsunami warning system within an incredibly short span of 30 months following the devastating Mw 9.3 Sumatra earthquake and subsequent tsunami in December 2004. The Indian tsunami warning system, a result of Dr. Gupta's leadership, is now recognized as one of the best globally.

The IISEE staff extends its sincere congratulations to him on receiving the IASPEI medal.



Enjoy, Now

Country Training from the Dominican Republic

By Mr. Takahiro Yamada, Head of Administration Division, IISEE

On Wednesday, May 10, we were visited by a country training from the Dominican Republic mediated by the International Affairs Section of the Planning Department, BRI.

We received a total of 17 visitors: 5 from the National Office of Seismic and



Opening address by Dr. Fukuyama

Contact Us

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

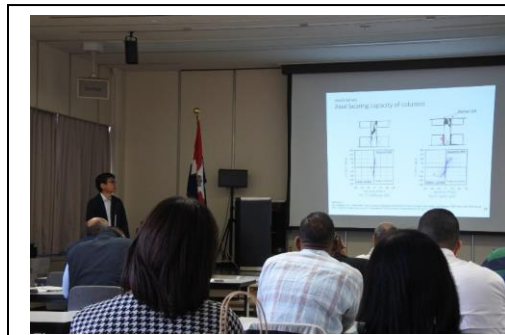
We encourage you to contribute a report and an article to this newsletter. Please let us know your current activities in your countries.

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

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

Vulnerability Assessment of Infrastructures and Buildings, 1 from the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development, 2 from the Ministry of Public Works and Communications, 2 from Ministry of Housing and Construction, 1 from Ministry of Public Health, 1 from National Seismology Center, 1 from Ministry of Civil Defense, 1 from National Geological Survey, 1 from Dominican Society of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering and two interpreters. The visit began with an opening address by Dr. Fukuyama, Vice President of the Building Research Institute, and a lecture on a building vulnerability assessment, training guidance, a Q&A session, and a hardship story from the Dominican Republic. The lecture on a building vulnerability assessment was given by Dr. Azuhata, Director of the Department of Structural Engineering, and the training guidance was provided by Dr. Shibazaki, Director of the International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering.



The lecture on a building vulnerability assessment by Dr. Azuhata



The training guidance by Dr. Shibazaki

Introduction of Personal Changes

By Mr. Takahiro Yamada, Head of Administration Division, IISEE

As of March 31, Dr. Haruhiko Suwada, the Senior Research Engineer of IISEE, resigned and move to architecture, SHINSHU University as a professor and Mr. Yohei Yamada, administrative of training and general affairs, administration division of IISEE transferred to the public works research institute.

As of April 3, Mr. Ryo Onozuka was hired and assigned to Administrative of Training and General Affairs, Administration Division of IISEE.

Back Numbers

<https://iisee.kenken.go.jp/en/newsletter/>

Greetings

By Mr. Ryo Onozuka, Administrative of Training and General Affairs, Administration Division of IISEE

My name is Ryo Onozuka, started working at IISEE since this April, commuting from Tsukuba City, Ibaraki Prefecture.

My hobbies are traveling, camping, sports, and cycling. I especially like baseball. I hope to have many conversations with you all.

I am very anxious about my job because there are many things I don't understand, but with everyone's support, I am able to do my job. I will do my best to learn the jobs quickly and be of assistance to everyone.

