



## In This Issue

- Latin American Earthquake Engineering Course for 2015
- Reports on Kansai Study Trip
- Visitors to IISEE
- Lunch with Songs under the Cherry Blossoms
- Letter from Ex-participant
- In Memoriam
- Snapshots of Kansai Study Trip

## IISEE Net and Training

IISEENET

IISEE-UNESCO Lecture Note

IISEE E-learning

Synopsis Database

Bulletin Database

## Latin American Earthquake Engineering Course for 2015

*By Dr. Toshiaki Yokoi & Mr. Mizuo Inukai of IISEE*

IISEE in cooperation with JICA will implement the second round of Latin American Earthquake Engineering Course from May 25 to July 25. The teaching language of this short course is Spanish. IISEE has agreed with JICA that 16 participants in total will be invited from Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru. They will study in IISEE located in Tsukuba, Japan for 6 weeks and then move to San Salvador. There they will have a chance to participate in the structural tests using the local materials and the popular methods of construction in Latin America.

Only these 6 countries have selected this course for Request Survey held by JICA and the official invitation called "General Information" of JICA has been sent only to them. The next Request Survey will be executed in this summer.

Please talk with your government first, if you wish to participate or to send your younger colleagues in this opportunity. We are always waiting for you and your colleagues.

## Reports on Kansai Study Trip

*(1) Mr. Kyaw Kyaw LIN (Myanmar, Seismology Course)*

The study trip to Kansai District (Osaka, Kyoto, Kobe Prefectures) and Awaji Island from 13-16 April, 2015 was one of the most interesting and memorable things that happened during my whole stay in Japan.

Seismology and Earthquake Engineering courses visited the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution, Hyogo Earthquake Engineering Research Center, Akashi Kaikyo Bridge, Ninna-ji Temple, Nijo Castle, Uemachi Fault and Nojima Fault Preservation Museum to gain knowledge on the new technology, recovery process and retrofitting of historical temples.



I was impressed when we visited Nojima Preservative Museum located in Awaji Island. The museum was very nice and informative to understand what had happened by the 1995 Kobe (Hyogoken-Nanbu) Earthquake.

I also learned how the fault moved and the damages in the area. Before the trip, I always learn and see active faults from the textbooks, journals etc., but owing to this study trip, I observed the actual fault and that's a great experience ever happened to me.

Finally, what I have learned from this study trip would be very useful not only

## Earthquakes

The 2011 off the Pacific coast of Tohoku Earthquake

Reports of Recent Earthquakes

Utsu Catalog

Earthquake Catalog

on my part but also to my country. That was a great opportunity for me to learn Japanese culture and the advanced technology for disaster mitigation and prevention. I thank IISEE, BRI and JICA.

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### *(2)Ms. Nadia Eda MACAVILCA ROJAS (Peru, Seismology Course)*

On April 13 to 16, Seismology class visited Uemachi and Nojima active faults in Osaka and Awaji Cities respectively. We walked along Uemachi fault in Osaka, and visited the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (Kobe) and the Nojima Fault Preservation Museum in (Awaji).

The records of The Great Hanshin Earthquake Disaster taught us the importance of saving memories of tough experiences to encourage the continuous improvement in disaster reduction.



The visit to Uemachi fault made us realize the high seismic risk in Osaka city and also the memorial corner of the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake brought us a picture of the potential damage.

The visit to the world's largest shaking table, E-Defense in Miki City, shows the commitment of Japan in the disaster reduction through its investment in earthquake engineering research, and also enjoyed once in a

lifetime opportunity to admire the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge.

In summary during this fulfilling trip we understood how Japan attained their currently leadership in disaster reduction management and engineering earthquake investing in preparedness and research.

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### *(3)Ms. Mary Criss SUAREZ ANTUNEZ (Peru, Earthquake Engineering Course)*

We went to Kansai area for a Study Trip. We learned about the 1995 Hyogoken-Nanbu (Kobe) Earthquake, the importance of measures adopted by the Japanese Government and the cooperation within the local community.

We visited institutions created as a reminder for future generations. At the Akashi-Kaikyo Bridge we learned about the construction and technologies applied for its maintenance; at Osaka Prefectural Government Building, we saw the procedure step-by-step for retrofitting with base isolation system.



At the facility of E-Defense, we saw Three-Dimensional Full-Scale Earthquake Testing Facility used to improve the seismic performance of buildings.

In Kyoto City, we learned about the restoration of wood temples built in early Heian and Edo Period.

I was surprised about the differences between the technologies used several eras ago and the present ones. Since 1995's disaster, the efforts of the Japanese Government for making Kobe a resilient city are evident.

I would like to thank the IISEE - BRI staff for giving us the opportunity to learn and know more about Japanese technology and culture.

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### *(4)Ms. Kathrine Anne Malabuyoc CAILING (Philippines, Earthquake Engineering Course)*

The study trip to Kansai District last April 13-16, 2015 was a great experience. The chance to witness the construction site of retrofitting works by base



## 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!!

isolation of the Osaka Prefectural Government Building was indeed informative and at the same time enjoyable.

The preservation and passing of the knowledge to the new generation about earthquake disasters such as the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution and the Nojima Fault Preservation Museum was one of the things I admired here in Japan.



For more than six months now, we always learnt about the world's largest three dimensional shaking table (E-defense) and being able to be up close with it was amazing.

Understanding the technology used for the construction of the longest center span suspension bridge, the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge, was interesting enough but given the chance to be on topmost of the bridge tower is a wonderful experience. The view from the top is

breathhtaking.

Glimpse of Japanese history were also shared to us by showing us the repairing of the heritage buildings such as the Ninna-ji Temple and Nijo-jo Castle. It was very interesting as it shows the construction technology of Japan since hundreds years ago and how the Japanese values its culture and preserves it for several generations.

I am deeply thankful to JICA and IISEE-BRI in organizing and financing this trip. The privileges and perks brought by this trip were once in a lifetime experiences. We had so much fun and as the same time had been educated.

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### *(5)Mr. Karl Vincent Colobong SORIANO (Philippines, Tsunami Disaster Mitigation Course)*

In 1854, a strong earthquake shook Hirokawa village, and Mr. Goryo Hamaguchi realized that a tsunami might come and told the people to evacuate into the higher grounds. As the night falls and darkness surrounds the village, he put the rice sheaves on fire so that the people who are still evacuating can find their way, and this story is known to be the "Inamura no Hi".



After the 1854 Ansei Nankai Earthquake, Goryo Hamaguchi helped the people of Hirokawa Town to recover from the disaster. Using his own money, he hired villagers to build a seawall along the coast of the town to protect them from future tsunamis.

True enough, in 1946 Nankai Earthquake, a tsunami attacked again the village. In today's modern world it is sometimes difficult to imagine how we can preserve the past for the future. Hamaguchi's visionary leadership is

one of the core values every leader should possess.

Here in Japan, the community is not only raising a child but a generation that is prepared for any disaster. I am very much impressed and amazed on how the local governments have stretched every effort to prepare their own communities for tsunamis, starting from the tsunami walls in Hirogawa, the tide gates of Numazu City, and the tsunami evacuation towers in Yoshida town, the list goes on as Japan learns from the past and grows into the future.

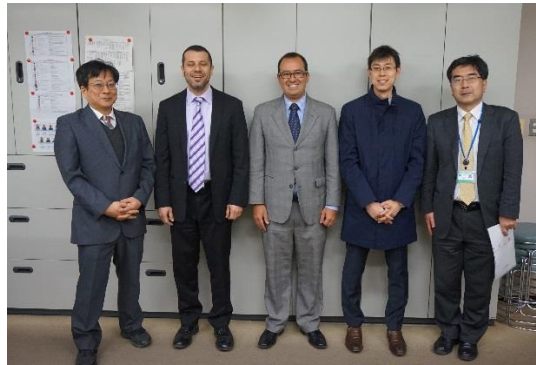
No matter how old, no matter how primitive, we can never deny the past and the only way we can see through the future is by looking back in the past and never again commit the same mistakes.

## Visitors to ISEE (March - April, 2015)

*By Dr. Toshiaki Yokoi, Director of ISEE*

We would like to introduce the visitors to ISEE in March and April.

March 10



*(middle 3 people; left to right)*

Mr. Alexandros K. Margaritis,

Mr. Jair Torres and

Mr. Soichiro Yasukawa

from Disaster Risk Reduction Unit,  
Natural Science Sector, UNESCO.



Enjoy, Now

March 20



*(left 2 people; left to right)*

Mr. Enrique O'Farrill Julien and

Ms. Melissa Sanchez

from Agencia de Cooperación  
Internacional de Chile (AGCI).

*(middle 2 people; left to right)*

an officer of the Chilean Embassy in  
Japan and

the representative of the JICA Chile  
office / an officer of JICA Head  
Quarter.

### Contact Us

The ISEE Newsletter is intended to act as a go-between for ISEE 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.

[iiseenews@kenken.go.jp](mailto:iiseenews@kenken.go.jp)  
<http://iisee.kenken.go.jp>

March 18

Mr. Carlos A. Villacis, Regional Project Manager and Strategy Coordinator of the GEM Foundation, where GEM stands for the Global Earthquake Model, and an ex-participant of Earthquake Engineering Course (1985-86).

April 13



*(right 2 people; left to right)*

Dr. Artashes Javadyan (Director) and  
Dr. Patvakan S. Voskanyan (Deputy  
Director)

from National Bureau of Expertises,  
Armenia.

*(left)* an officer of Armenian Embassy  
in Japan.

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## Lunch with Songs under the Cherry Blossoms

*By Mr. Takashi Yamashita, Head of IISEE Administration Division*

On Friday April 3, IISEE had a "Cherry Blossom Viewing" lunch party.

Although it was cloudy, we enjoyed a good view of cherry blossoms and Japanese style lunch boxes. As new staff members, Ms. Chieko Gotou and I introduced ourselves. Also, we celebrated two participants' birthday singing a birthday song all together.

There are lots of cherry trees around IISEE building, and such cherry trees come into full bloom at the beginning of April, which is exactly the same time when fiscal year in Japan starts. "Cherry Blossom Viewing" is held during the period when we can feel the natural breath of spring, and therefore it is one of the Japanese people's traditional seasonal events. People go to see the cherry blossoms with their family, friends and colleagues and enjoy eating and drinking underneath.

We were happy to have shared the time with training participants under the beautiful blossoms.



under Cherry Blossoms

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## Letter from Ex-Participant

IISEE sent Year Book vol.32 to ex-participants in last March, and we received lots of replies from them. Out of them, we would like to introduce names of those who made a comforting feedback to IISEE.

Mr. Afsar khan (2006-07 Seismology Course, Pakistan)

Dr. Himangshu Sekhar MANDAL (2005-06 Seismology Course, India)

Dr. Carydis Panayotis, Gr. (1968-69 Advanced Earthquake Engineering Course, Greece)

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## In Memoriam

It was with profound sorrow that we received the sad news of the passing away of following two ex-participants.

We would like to extend the sincerest sympathy from all of us at IISEE to their losses.

Mr. Francisco B. LIMETA (1966-67 Earthquake Engineering Course, 1974-75 Advanced Earthquake Engineering Course, 1980 Seminar Course, Philippines)

Dr. Georgios STAVRAKAKIS (1984-85 Seismology Course, Greece)

## Back Numbers

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

# Snapshots of Kansai Study Trip



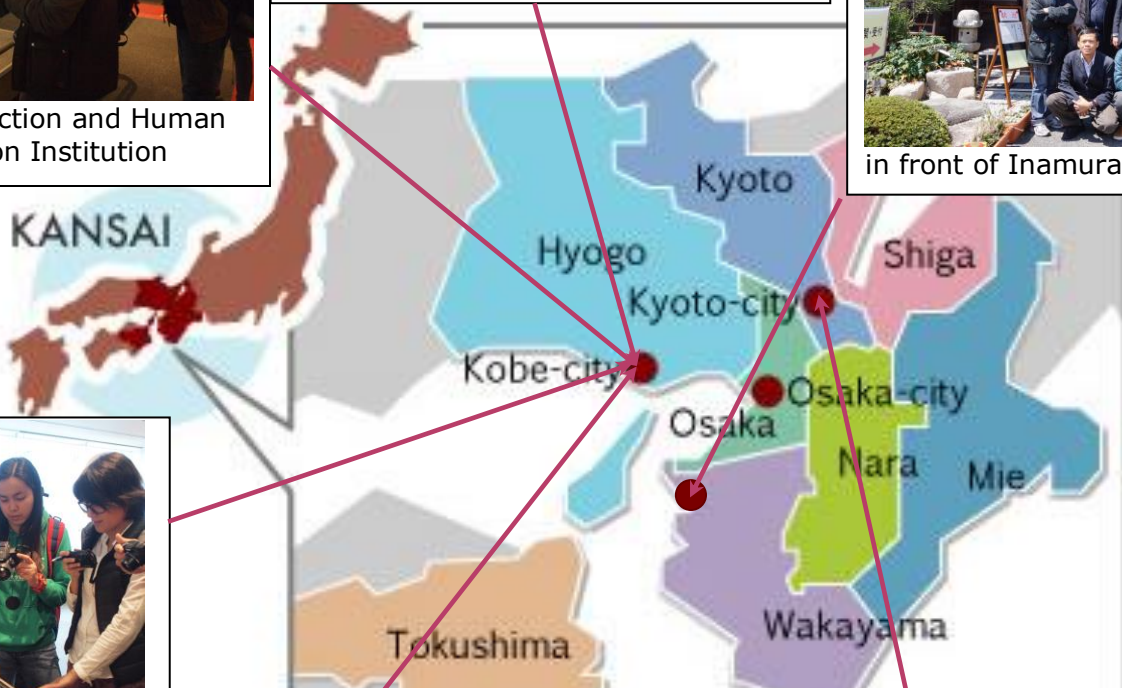
Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution



at the top of the Akashi Kaikyo Ohashi



in front of Inamura-no-Hi no Yakata



Hyogo Earthquake Engineering Research Center (E-Defense)



Nojima Fault Preservation Museum



Group Photo in front of Nijo Jo