Join us

International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering
IISEE

More than 50 years: More than 1,700 participants

The International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering (IISEE) at the Building Research Institute (BRI) in Tsukuba, Japan provides training program in seismology, earthquake engineering and tsunami disaster mitigation to researchers and engineers from developing countries. As of September 2016, a total of 1,751 participants from 100 countries have completed the training courses from 1960.
Number and Nationalities of Ex-Participants

- Hypocenters (US Geological Survey from 2000 to 2009, M≥5.0)
- Number of Ex-Participants (1,751 Participants from 100 countries and region as of end of September 2016)
IISEE Training Course

IISEE mainly conducts one-year training courses named Seismology Course, Earthquake Engineering Course and Tsunami Disaster Mitigation Course, and two-month course named Global Seismological Observation Course and Latin American Earthquake Engineering Course. Short-term training courses focusing on specific themes take place occasionally.

**Seismology Course**

The course provides advanced knowledge and technology concerning earthquakes and seismic hazards. The participants belong to the organizations responsible for seismic observation and earthquake disaster mitigation in their countries. The lectures such as seismic hazard, risk evaluation and earthquake disaster mitigation policy-making are designed to be useful for the participants after returning to their countries. Practical training, study trips, and participation in international conferences are also included in the program.

**Earthquake Engineering Course**

The course is designed to contribute to the reduction of structural damages by earthquakes and human suffering caused by those damages in developing countries. The participants are mainly researchers, engineers from governments and universities. The lectures consist of basic studies (structural analysis, structural dynamics, earthquake resistant structures for reinforced concrete construction, steel structures) and the latest studies (seismic isolation, response control technique, seismic limit state design). These are systematically provided through lectures, practices and study trips.

**Tsunami Disaster Mitigation Course**

The course began in 2006 after the gigantic tsunami generated by the earthquake off Sumatran in 2004. The lectures provide advanced education and technology for dealing with earthquakes and tsunamis. The participants will apply and disseminate their acquired knowledge and techniques for tsunami disaster mitigation and introduce tsunami hazard evaluation and early-warning systems in their countries as specialists.
IISEE Training & History

Global Seismological Observation Course

The course is launched in 1995 at the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. It is conducted as a part of the Japan’s contributions to the world’s nuclear disarmament in cooperation with the Japan Metrological Agency and JICA. The participants are expected to play an important role in the CTBT and IMS. The lectures are seismological observation technologies for monitoring nuclear tests and earthquakes, and data analytical techniques to discriminate nuclear tests from natural earthquakes.

Individual Course

The course is not a group training but designed for participants with high scholastic ability and professional experience. The participant pursues his/her own study individually with his/her supervisor in IISEE.

Other Training Courses

IISEE holds short-term training courses focusing on specific themes such as China Seismic Building Course (2009-2012). It was launched in 2009 after the 2008 Sichuan Earthquake as part of reconstruction support by the Government of Japan. It was 2-month training course managed in Chinese and 72 participants have studied structural technology in IISEE for 4 years. After they returned to China, they gave lectures to 324 local engineers. Those engineers gave lectures to 8,833 local professionals. On June 2014, the Latin American Earthquake Engineering Course is launched.

History of IISEE

After World War II, young researchers and engineers from earthquake-prone developing countries who came to Japan to study seismology and earthquake engineering have been gradually increased. Taking the opportunity of the 2nd World Conference on Earthquake Engineering held in Tokyo in 1960, the leading figures and experts of seismology and earthquake engineering in and out of Japan negotiated about the feasibility of the group training for those people. On July 1960, a nine-month training course was launched in the University of Tokyo.

The training was successful and requested to hold permanently by the relevant countries. The Government of Japan decided and established the IISEE in BRI on January 1962. Between September 1963 and August 1972, the United Nation’s Special Fund and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) cooperated with the Government of Japan in holding the training. From September 1972, the training was held solely by the Government of Japan.

On March 1979, BRI and IISEE moved to Tsukuba from Tokyo and on April 2001 BRI changed to an independent administrative agency by the governmental reform. With the cooperation with the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies(GRIPS), the IISEE’ one-year training program was certified as a GRIPS’ master program from October 2005 and the participants are awarded the Master Degrees after the completion of the credits and master’s theses.
Ex-Participants & Master’s Degree

IIESE Ex-Participants

After training, the participants make steady efforts to mitigate earthquake disasters and are given leading positions in their countries. Some are shown as follows: as of Sept 2016

**INDONESIA**
121 people of the Agency for Meteorology Climatology and Geophysics, the Research Institute for Human Settlement, etc. have joined the training. Prof. Dr. Ir. Djoko Santoso (1978-79, Seismology Course) is Director General of Higher Education, Ministry of National Education and the former rector of the Bandung Institute of Technology.

**PERU**
129 people, the second number next to China (130) have come to IIESE. They have Japan-Peru Center for Earthquake Engineering Research and Disaster Mitigation in the National University of Engineering (CISMID-UNI) which was established in cooperation with BRI. Dr. Julio Kuroiwa (1961-62, Earthquake Engineering Course), an emeritus of “UNI”, is one of the founders of earthquake engineering in Peru.

**EGYPT**
88 people have joined the training. Most of them have come from the National Research Institute of Astronomy and Geophysics (NRIAG). Dr. Rashad Kebeasy (1965-66, Seismology Course) and Dr. Salah Mohamed (1982-83, Seismology Course) served as NRIAG President.

A Master’s Degree

In 2005, IIESE formed partnership with the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) which is a stand-alone national graduate university focused on policy studies in Japan. Owing to the partnership with GRIPS, one-year training course participants in seismology, earthquake engineering, and tsunami disaster mitigation who have successfully:

1. completed one-year training courses,
2. obtained the required credits, and
3. submitted the theses,

are conferred the degrees of “Master of Disaster Management” certified by GRIPS and BRI/IIESE.

Receiving a master’s degree after the one-year training in IIESE is a long-standing request and dream of the participants. With the master’s degree, they will devote their career to earthquake disaster mitigation in their respective countries.

As of September 2016, 241 graduates are conferred the degrees from 2005.

Conferment of a Master’s Degree in GRIPS
**IPRED Activities**

International Platform for Reducing Earthquake Disasters (IPRED) was established by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2007. It aims to promote collaboration in research, training and education in the fields of seismology and earthquake engineering. IISEE plays as the Centre of Excellence supported by UNESCO and Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. The main goals are;

- **to exchange information and propose plans** regarding seismology and earthquake engineering for reducing earthquake disasters, especially on buildings and housing.

- **to address policy-relevant issues** related to the reduction of earthquake disaster risks and implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, including the formulation of recommendations on priorities of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR).

- **to establish a system to dispatch experts to earthquake stricken countries** in order to carry out post-earthquake field investigations and draw lessons for future risk reduction, by utilizing the worldwide connection of the IISEE graduates.

**IISEE Course Classification**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training Course</th>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Commencement</th>
<th>Ex-participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regular</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seismology</td>
<td>Seismology</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1 year (Oct.-Sept.) Lectures in Class (8 months)</td>
<td>1960</td>
<td>544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earthquake</td>
<td>Earthquake Engineering</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Individual Study (3 months)</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tsunami Disaster Mitigation</td>
<td>Tsunami</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China Seismic Building</td>
<td>Earthquake Engineering</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2 months</td>
<td>2009 (2009-2012)</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin American Earthquake Engineering</td>
<td>Earthquake Engineering</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2 months (2 weeks in Latin America)</td>
<td>2014 (2014-2016)</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Course</td>
<td>Seismology/Earthquake Engineering</td>
<td>10 to 20</td>
<td>1 to 2 months</td>
<td>1980 (1980-2000)</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Short Term</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Global Seismological Observation</td>
<td>Seismology</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2 months (Jan.-Mar.)</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>Seismology/Earthquake Engineering /Tsunami</td>
<td>several</td>
<td>Upon request</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 1,751 as of the end of Sept. 2016
Guatemala
Nicaragua
Cuba
Dominican Re.
Venezuela
Colombia
Brazil
Ecuador
Bolivia
Paraguay
Argentina
Chile
Peru
Mexico
El Salvador
Costa Rica

Number of ex-participants by region

- Asia: 695
- Latin America: 510
- Africa: 203
- Europe: 114
- Oceania: 54
- Middle East: 175

Number of ex-participants by course

- Total: 1,751
- Seismology Course: 544
- Earthquake Engineering Course: 551
- Seminar Course: 293
- Individual Course: 108
- Global Seismological Observation Course: 208
- Latin American Earthquake Engineering Course: 46
- China Seismic Building Course: 72
- Tsunami Disaster Mitigation Course: 47

Number of ex-participants by region

- Asia: 695
- Latin America: 510
- Africa: 203
- Europe: 114
- Middle East: 175
- Oceania: 54

Number of ex-participants by course

- Annual Training in Seismology and Earthquake Engineering: 1,142
- China Seismic Building Course: 72
- Latin American Earthquake Engineering Course: 46
- Seminar Course: 293
- Individual Course: 108
- Global Seismological Observation Course: 208
- Earthquake Engineering Course: 551

Number of ex-participants by region

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- Asia: 695
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In order to reduce earthquake damage in developing countries, it is indispensable for them to fully understand their own characteristics of the seismic source, ground condition, building structures, etc, and to deal with research and development of earthquake disaster mitigation technology. However, their seismological observation system and research system are not always sufficient. Most have not yet obtained the necessary information on earthquake mitigation study. To assist them, IISEE releases databases of earthquake and training information through the website.

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

**IISEE Net**

The information Network of Earthquake Disaster Prevention Technologies (IISEE Net) releases the information of earthquake disaster mitigation of buildings. It mainly accumulates technical information (seismic design code, seismic network & activities, seismic damage, and micro-zonation) from developing countries.

**BRI Strong Motion Observation**

We provide the recent strong motion observation data from more than 70 strong motion stations throughout Japan. BRI has been conducting the strong motion observation for building structures since 1957.

**Newsletter**

IISEE issues a monthly newsletter. It is a useful channel of communication and gives an update on IISEE current activities. The newsletter can be also accessed from the IISEE website.