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Report on Tohoku Study Trip

By Mr. SAMAPTA Brilian Tatag (Indonesia, S-course)

Looking back on our incredible study trip through the Tohoku region, I can't help but feel a rush of excitement and gratitude for the unforgettable experiences we shared. From the fascinating lectures at Tohoku University, where we delved into the intricacies of seismic events, to the moving visits to memorial museums and evacuation sites, each moment was filled with awe and inspiration. Hearing the stories of survivors at the Tsunami Disaster Memorial Museum was both humbling and eye-opening, reminding us of the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity. And witnessing firsthand the efforts towards recovery and revitalization left me feeling hopeful and energized for the future. As we bid farewell to Tohoku, I'm filled with a sense of admiration for the strength and determination of its communities, and I'm eager to continue supporting their journey towards renewal. I can't help but wish for more study trips like this, where we can not only enhance our knowledge about disasters and Japanese culture but also deepen our understanding of recovery from adversity. Here's to hoping for more opportunities to learn and grow together in the future!



Lectures at Tohoku University



The Site of Sendai Castle

By Mr. Ricardo Ulloa (El Salvador, E-course)

The trip through the Tohoku region was a mixture of contradictory sensations. On the one hand, Japan's beauty, reflected in its cities, towns, parks, and temples, will remain etched in my memory as a joyful reminder. On the other hand, being present at sites where the tsunami ravaged communities, claiming hundreds of lives, evoked a profound sense of sorrow. I'll never forget the feeling at the "Miyagi 3.11 Tsunami Disaster Memorial Museum" as they explained the tsunami's height at that point of 6.9 meters above my head or standing on the roof of "Arahama Elementary School", gazing in all directions and imagining how hundreds of people once went about their daily lives there, now vanished. However, it's admirable how Japan never forgets but perseveres and learns from each event despite being prone to natural disasters to build a better and more resilient future. Undoubtedly, this trip was an unforgettable experience.



Hiyoriyama Park



Iwaki 3.11 Memorial and Revitalization Museum

By Mr. Fajar Tri Haryanto (Indonesia, T-course)

From April 23rd to April 26th, 2024, we, Tsunami course participants took part in a study trip to Tohoku region. We visited several cities affected by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami: Matsushima, Ishinomaki, Onagawa, Minamisanriku, Kesenuma, Rikuzentakata, Ofunato, Kamaishi, and Miyako.

It is fascinating to know that some of these cities have already been prepared for tsunami disasters since the Showa era. For instance, in Taro, Miyako, they started building a sea wall near the coast in 1934, just one year after the Showa Sanriku tsunami (1933) and finished it in 1958. They also built two additional sea walls afterward. This proves that Japan has been aware of and has tried to mitigate tsunami disasters since long ago; they also write documentaries about the tsunami on a big stone (center of group photo) that was carried by the tsunami.

During this trip, I learned the importance of not only the hardware (sea walls, shelters, and elevated land) but also the software (tsunami disaster evacuation education and drills) approaches. For example, at Arahama Elementary School, before the 2010 Chilean tsunami, the evacuation site was in the gymnasium. However, after the 2010 Chilean tsunami, they decided to change the evacuation site to another place. This action significantly increased the number of people who survived from the 2011 Tohoku earthquake tsunami. On the other hand, Okawa Elementary School chose the Kitakami Bridge as an evacuation site, but unfortunately, the tsunami reached that bridge, and only several tens of students survived because they were evacuated to the hill instead.



Tsunami Stone of Yoshihama

Most cities affected by the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami have almost recovered within a decade after the event. They have built higher sea walls, excavated mountains, made elevated roads, moved residential areas, created new regulations, and designed city plans that are more resistant to earthquakes and tsunamis. This shows the will and perseverance of those living in earthquake- and tsunami-prone areas. In conclusion, this study trip helped us to learn more about past tsunamis, which can be useful to mitigate future tsunami disasters.

Turkmenistan: Implementation of Training program in Japan for JICA Technical Cooperation Projects

By IISEE

As part of the JICA technical cooperation project "The Project for Improvement of the Earthquake Monitoring System in and around the Ashgabat City", which is being implemented based on the request from Turkmenistan, a training program was held from June 11 to 20, with the aim of acquiring Japanese earthquake monitoring and analysis techniques, improving seismic observation capabilities, and learning how to use them for earthquake disaster prevention. The lectures were given by Dr. Kashima, Dr. Inoue, Dr. Hara, and Dr. Hayashida on the processing of seismic and strong-motion observation data and its use for earthquake disaster prevention, geophysical techniques and their use for seismic hazard assessment, and the methods for organizing, storing, and releasing seismic and strong-motion observation data. Five staff members from institutions related to seismic observation and earthquake disaster prevention in Turkmenistan attended the lecture.



Introducing Our New Brochure

By IISEE

IISEE Brochure (English version) has been updated. Please use it to promote the IISEE to other organizations interested in the IISEE Training Program.

https://iisee.kenken.go.jp/en/assets/pdf/brochure_en_20240607.pdf

IISEE exhibition booth and alumni meeting (July 3) at WCEE2024

By IISEE

The World Conference on Earthquake Engineering (WCEE2024) is held from June 30 to July 5 in Milan, Italy. Eight researchers will be attending WCEE from IISEE.

We are excited to announce that IISEE will be exhibiting at the conference. We warmly invite you to visit us at our booth, # B44.

We are also planning the IISEE alumni meeting (dinner party) on July 3.

If you want to attend the alumni meeting, please let us know by e-mail or at our booth.

We look forward to seeing you in Milan!



IISEE alumni meeting at 16WCEE in Santiago, Chile
(January, 2017)

(Short Report) Start of Individual Study for Annual Training Program and Holding a Send-Off Party

By IISEE

Group training for the IISEE regular course for the academic year 2023-24 was completed on May 17, and the individual study began on May 20. We held a send-off party since 6 participants stay far from Tsukuba to receive individual study supervision.



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/>



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