

## News of the Institute

### Retrofit Gossip

The seminar on Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings will start its national tour in San Francisco on the evenings of January 20 and 21.

Karen T. Houghton has a publication date for the seismic rehabilitation feature in *Spectra*. Please call with papers or suggestions.

Ron Hamburger wants "encouragement to activate his subcommittee on repairing structures following earthquake damage." Please call him at (415) 989-2000.

Tom Moore is collecting minutes from existing building committees from other organizations (SEAOC, ASCE, etc.) These are available from Linsley at the EERI office.

Rumor has it that the City of Dunedin in New Zealand is planning to require a "warrant of fitness" for existing buildings every two years. This is expected to trigger extensive seismic rehabilitation.

Pontification of the Month: "We do not know enough about how existing buildings behave to be writing code-like procedures on how to evaluate and retrofit these buildings!!!" (Overheard at the SEAONC existing buildings committee meeting in Nov., 1992.) Heard in reply, "Well, we have to start somewhere!"

### Public Policy Comm. Needs State Contacts

The EERI Public Policy Committee is looking for one representative in each state to provide factual information to members of Congress on policy issues of national importance. Volunteers are being sought. If you are interested, please contact the EERI office.

## EERI Special Earthquake Report

# Flores, Indonesia, Earthquake of December 12, 1992

*EERI member Davy Sukamta, of Jakarta, Indonesia, submitted the following report on the recent earthquake in that country.*

The Flores earthquake struck on December 12, 1992, at 1:29 p.m. local time (6:29 GMT), at a depth of about 36 km. The magnitude of the quake was estimated at 6.8 on the Richter scale. The epicenter was in the Sawu Sea. Tsunami swept two nearby small islands, Pig Island and Big Panama Island. On Pig Island only 105 out of 850 inhabitants survived. Tsunami also hit the central and east parts of Flores Island, reaching up to 300 meters from the coast with waves reaching 6 to 25 meters in height. Boats, huts, and the jetty in Maumere, Ende, and Marapokat were destroyed. Landslides were reported. The official death toll was 1918 as of Dec. 17, 1992. Estimated losses are  $\pm$  \$100 million.

In Ende, 60 percent of the buildings suffered severe damage, including the office of the Statistics Bureau, the Attorney building, the Department of Health building, the Bank BRI building, schools, and others. There are no highrise structures in the area. Concrete buildings in the range of two to three stories are common in the city of Maumere. Most of them were not well engineered, and were severely damaged. Some 18,041 houses and 1,254 public buildings were reported as damaged or destroyed.

Electricity was out for three days. No reports on water supply and other lifeline systems have been received.

## News of the Profession

### Estimating Earthquake Losses: NIBS Forming Oversight Committee

The National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) was recently awarded a contract by FEMA to develop a nationally applicable standardized methodology to estimate potential earthquake losses. Knowledgeable individuals are being sought for membership on the volunteer project oversight committee.

Loss-estimation studies are needed to form a basis for development of local hazard mitigation and disaster preparedness plans. However, no

common loss-estimation methodology currently exists; the assumptions and approaches used in each study differ. The NIBS project will build on past studies to develop a nationally standardized approach. Up to three pilot loss-estimation studies will be conducted to test and refine the methodology.

The \$3 million project will take three years to complete including drafting and initial refinement of the methodology, conducting a loss-estimation workshop, and pilot testing of the methodology.

For further information about this project and membership on the project oversight committee, contact Philip Schneider, NIBS, 1201 L St. NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 289-7800.