

Reconnaissance to Japan

Three days after the Niigata Chuetsu Oki earthquake, EERI and GEER (Geo-Engineering Earthquake Reconnaissance) deployed a joint team of engineers and emergency management experts to document the geotechnical effects, the performance of the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant; other structures; bridges; ports and harbors; lifelines; and emergency response by local authorities. The EERI-GEER team led by Robert Kayen of the USGS and Santiago Pujol of Purdue University, included Brian Collins of the USGS; Scott Ashford, Stephen Dickenson, and Yohsuke Kawamata of Oregon State University; Scott J. Brandenburg of UCLA; Norm Abrahamson and Ben Tsai of PG&E; Laurie Johnson of Kyoto University; Mark Yashinsky of Caltrans; Peter Yanev, independent consultant; Yasuo Tanaka and Hidetaka Koumoto of Kobe University; Kohji Tokimatsu of Tokyo Institute of Technology; Toshimi Kabeyasawa and Kim Yousok of Tokyo University; and Nanako Marubashi of Nagoya Institute of Technology, Kazuo Konagai, University of Tokyo, Toshikatsu Ichinose of Nagoya Institute of Technology, Toshikazu Kabeyasawa, and Toshinori Kabeyasawa of the University of Tokyo, Keiko Tamura of Niigata University, Haruo Hayashi and Norio Maki of Kyoto University, Kobe University and the staff of the Research Center for Urban Safety and Security (RCUSS). The team also coordinated lifelines investigations with a team from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Technical Council of Lifeline Earthquake Engineering (TCLEE), including Mark Yashinsky (also with EERI), Stephen Dickenson (also with GEER), Curt Edwards, Anshel Schiff, Alex Tang, and Yumei Wang. The ASCE team received support from the Japanese Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE). The JSCE team members included Jorgen Johansson and Hiroyuki Yanagawa. The active participation and enthusiasm of EERI, GEER, and TCLEE Japanese participants and the Japan Association of Earthquake Engineers (JAEE) was critical for the success of the mission.

A preliminary report from the EERI-GEER team is available on the EERI and GEER websites. Reconnaissance participation and the publication of the reports has been supported by the National Science Foundation through Grant Nos. CMII-032914 & CMII-0131895.