



EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING
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NEWSLETTER

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Learning From Earthquakes

Deadly Mudslides Generated by Quake in Toribio, Colombia

On June 6, 1994, a strong earthquake (estimated magnitudes range from 6.0 to 6.4) centered in Toribio, Cauca, Colombia, generated massive mud/snow slides that completely engulfed multiple rural villages. Original estimates of the death toll started at 500, a number that has continued to rise as the extent of the disaster has been revealed. Most construction in the affected area is adobe, which performed poorly. Professor Luis E. Garcia (EERI 1975), of the Universidad de Los Andes in Bogota, Colombia, has been collecting information from government agencies and field investigators to share with EERI. Look for a full report in next month's newsletter.

The EERI Nominating Committee Asks: How Should We Select Our President?

The 1994 EERI Nominating Committee examined the EERI nomination and election process at its meeting on April 9, 1994. The committee, chaired by Bob Hanson, decided to ask for opinions from the membership on the issue of how the EERI President is selected.

Article VII, Section 3, of the EERI Bylaws states, "The Nominating Committee . . . shall biennially select at least one (1) candidate for the office of President-Elect." While this language allows the Nominating Committee to put forth more than one candidate, traditionally, only a single nomination has been made. Additional candidates may be added to the slate by petition of 50 voting EERI members.

Many organizations nominate only a single candidate for their Presidency. At EERI this tradition has been followed, largely because the job of President requires a major commitment of time and energy. Many people feel that it is inappropriate to ask a person who has agreed to make this massive commitment to face an election. Other people feel that the membership should be offered a choice of candidates. They argue that having a single candidate on the ballot, nominated by a small committee, does not allow the preference of the membership to be expressed.

How do *you* feel about this issue? Send your comments to Susan Tubbesing at the EERI office, who will forward them to Bob Hanson and the Nominating Committee. If this issue generates a lot of interest, the newsletter will publish a selection of comments representing a variety of views.

The Nominating Committee has decided to implement the following improvements to the current nominating and election system:

1) Through solicitation in the newsletter, members will be invited to submit names of potential candidates for the Board of Directors and the Presidency directly to the Nominating Committee. Members may offer their own names, or those of others. All suggestions will be kept strictly confidential. The Nominating Committee will continue to abide by the directives of the Bylaws, attempting to achieve a geographic distribution and range of professional affiliations, as they create a slate of nominees. However, the Nominating Committee hopes that by soliciting suggestions from the membership, a larger pool of capable and willing candidates will be identified early in the process. The option of adding candidates to the slate by petition will remain in place.

2) All candidates, whether nominated by the Committee or by petition, will be asked to submit a short statement of their vision for EERI, as well as biographical information. The statements of proposed goals for EERI and the biographies will be included in the ballot package as well as published in the newsletter.

These changes will be implemented beginning with the *next* election cycle (1995-96). The nominating process is already well on its way for the current cycle (1994-95); nominations will be announced to the membership in the September newsletter.