



EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

NEWSLETTER

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News of the Profession

Tobin Leaving CSSC

L. Thomas Tobin has announced that he will be resigning his position as Executive Director of California's Seismic Safety Commission effective July 31, 1995. During his ten years of leadership, the Commission created the California Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program and wrote *California at Risk*. It led the way in getting numerous pieces of legislation passed and programs instituted, including the Unreinforced Masonry Building Law, Proposition 122, the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act, hospital retrofit requirements for the Alquist Hospital Seismic Safety Act, the Essential Services Buildings Act, the Private Schools Act, Home Owner's and Commercial Property Owner's Guides programs, and requirements for mobile home installation tie-downs.

Learning From Earthquakes

Quakes Hit Greece, Philippines, Indonesia, United States

A magnitude 6.6 earthquake hit central Greece at noon on May 13, 1995. The region is considered to be among the least seismically active areas in Greece. Nearly 1,000 houses collapsed. An additional 10,000 buildings were damaged to the point of being unusable. Nevertheless, no deaths have been reported. Professor Panayotis G. Carydis of the National Technical University and several of his colleagues arrived at the stricken site within a few hours of the main shock. Their reconnaissance report is included as an insert in this issue of the newsletter.

EERI member Vincent Porrizzo forwarded some additional information about the series of five earthquakes that hit the Philippines on April 20-21, 1995 (see May 1995 newsletter for preliminary report). The largest of the quakes was recorded by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology as a magnitude 6.9. The quakes are apparently related to activity in the Philippine Trench, east of Mindanao. Damage to a steel multi-span arch bridge and a school was reported. Porrizzo noted that he and his colleagues felt one of the events in their five-story office building in Manila, 600 km from the epicenter. The building is situated in an area of deep, soft soil; very few people in other parts of Manila felt the motion.

On May 14, an earthquake-generated tsunami left one person dead and 16 missing along the coast of East Timor, Indonesia. An additional 22 people were reported injured. In the East Timor capital of Dili, the quake itself was strongly felt, but no damage was reported.

A light earthquake, magnitude 4.1, occurred in Montana on May 2, 1995. The quake was felt in the Kalispell area, but no damage was reported. On May 7, a magnitude 5.0 event occurred east-northeast of Palm Springs, California. The earthquake was felt in the Coachella Valley, and lightly felt in the Los Angeles area. No damage was reported.

The Commission's work after the Loma Prieta earthquake resulted in meaningful improvements to the earthquake programs at Caltrans, CSU, and the Department of General Services.

Tom is leaving the Commission to pursue long-delayed plans to re-enter the private sector to work with local governments and private companies in their efforts to cope with earthquakes and other hazards. EERI wishes Tom well in his new endeavors.

Travel Info for 5ICSZ, Nice, France

EERI is using the *Scan the World* travel agency (800-775-0200, Maria) for travel to the Fifth International Conference on Seismic Zonation, being held Oct. 17-19 in Nice, France. Limited travel grants are available. Applications are due by June 30. (See the May newsletter.) Information on air fares and hotel accommodation will be published in the July newsletter.