

News of the Profession

Nominations Sought for Geotechnical Engineering Award

The Shamsheer Prakash Foundation is soliciting nominations worldwide for the 1994 Shamsheer Prakash Research Award for young (age 40 or younger) scientists and researchers. The candidates should be specialists in geotechnical engineering and/or geotechnical earthquake engineering. They should have made significant independent contributions and show promise of future excellence. The amount of the award is \$1,001, payable in the local currency of the awardee. Nominations must be received by May 31, 1994. To receive a brochure giving details of the nominating procedure, contact the Shamsheer Prakash Foundation, Anand Kutir, 1111 Duane Avenue, Rolla, MO 65401, 314-364-5572, Fax 314-264-4729/4473, e-mail: prakash@novell.civil.umn.edu.

New Subsidiary at Englekirk Consulting

Robert Englekirk Consulting Structural Engineers, Inc., announces the new corporate subsidiary of Englekirk & Nakaki, Inc., A Systems Development Corporation (ENI), with Suzanne Dow Nakaki as President. The purpose of the new company is to develop innovative seismic and vertical structural systems. Initial projects include a precast concrete frame system, for use in high seismicity zones, which provides ductility through special ductile connectors. The field connection is completed solely by means of high strength bolting. ENI has also secured the patent rights to the Compton/Mast bolted ductile strap connector.

Learning from Earthquakes

Another Earthquake Hits Indonesia - 191 Killed

Davy Sukamta (EERI 1992) and Teddy Boen contributed to this report on yet another serious earthquake in Indonesia.

A Richter magnitude 6.5 earthquake struck the west coast of South Sumatra on February 16, 1994, at 8:00 a.m. local time. The city of Liwa was severely damaged by the quake, which was located on the Sumatra fault. A Richter magnitude 7.5 earthquake was recorded in this area in 1933. As a result of the most recent earthquake, landslides occurred, the water supply was cut, and thousands of buildings were damaged. Some volcanic activity occurred, where hot springs caused two villages to be flooded.

As of March 4, the record showed 191 persons killed and 464 severely injured. The list of severely damaged buildings included 3458 houses, 138 schools, 133 offices, 184 mosques, and 31 hospitals. Most buildings in the area, including schools and mosques, are non-engineered single story structures. A steel truss bridge was damaged when the support shifted some 200 mm from its original position, shearing off six high tensile 16 mm diameter bolts.

News of the Institute

Retrofit News

Tom Moore, Chairman of EERI's Existing Buildings Committee, submitted the following report on items which the committee is monitoring.

It has been reported that the City of San Francisco will not accept structural engineering retrofit plans unless they are accompanied by handicap upgrades. This has led to irate calls from owners to engineers demanding that the job be completed—at no extra cost.

Committee members have heard that owners of buildings located below freeway overpasses and flyovers have been approaching Caltrans for relief from potential earthquake hazards from the existing bridges.

Concern has been expressed about the proliferation of California city building departments that will not allow special inspection to be performed by the Engineer of Record. Rather, they are requiring inspections to be performed by a testing agency employee with ICBO certification. However, ICBO has no training program or test for inspectors of retrofit activities such as epoxy grouting operations. A more effective approach to special inspection would have the Project Engineer be at the job site as often as possible to encourage quality control and conformance with the designer's intent. This situation is particularly important on retrofit projects where as-built conditions are not always known prior to detailing the retrofit because the structure is usually hidden by sheathing materials.