Learning from Earthquakes

Quakes in Ecuador, Indonesia, Mexico

Earthquake disasters struck around the world during the month of October. On October 2 at 8:51 p.m. local time a magnitude 6.9 quake occurred in Ecuador near the Peruvian border, killing two people and injuring five others. The lightly populated epicentral area in the Cutucu Mountains is about 280 km southeast of Quito. At least one aftershock greater than magnitude six and five greater than magnitude 5 have occurred.

According to the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs, a bridge on the Upana River collapsed in Morona, Santiago Province, cutting communications among nearby towns. The hospital at Tena was evacuated due to damage, and minor urban housing damage has been reported. The quake was felt in northern Peru and caused interruption to power and telephone lines as far away as Bogota, Colombia.

On October 7, at 1:10 a.m. local time, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake killed 81 people and injured over 700 others in Indonesia. The epicenter was 16 km west of Sungaipenuh, the capital of the district of Kerinci in the Jambi province. Close to 300,000 people live in the affected district. Over 5,000 houses suffered major damage or collapse, and more than 6,000 suffered minor damage. Seven mosques were damaged. A landslide affecting 1.8 km of a modern irrigation system and causing minor damage to traditional irrigation systems was reported. The loss of a bridge in Rawang village cut off the road to Sumatra via Muara Labuh.

On October 9, a magnitude 7.6 earthquake occurred off the coast of Mexico near the resort town of Manzanillo. Approximately 40 people were killed and about 100 injured. See the insert in this newsletter for more information about this earthquake, and about the Sept. 14 Guerrero, Mexico, earthquake.

News of the Institute

Travel Scholarships Available for Annual Meeting

Thanks to support from FEMA, several scholarships are available to help student members or younger EERI members (out of school no more than three years) to attend the EERI Annual Meeting being held in Los Angeles on February 8-10, 1996. Each scholarship will cover registration, lodging at the conference hotel for three nights, and round-trip excursion air fare. To apply, send a letter of request to the Traditional Education Committee by December 30, 1995. Describe your current involvement in earthquake engineering or a related field and your status as a student or professional. Include a statement of financial need. Send applications to the EERI office.

EERI Annual Meeting Program in the Mail

Watch your mailbox! The program for the 1996 EERI Annual Meeting, scheduled for February 8-10, 1996, in Los Angeles, is on its way to all EERI members. This meeting, which focuses on "Enduring Lessons from Earthquakes: The 25th Anniversary of the San Fernando Earthquake" and features presentations on Northridge and Kobe, will draw a large crowd. Make sure you get your registrations in early and make your hotel reservations well before the cutoff! If you have not received your program by December 15 or if you would like another copy of it, please call the EERI office.