



EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

NEWSLETTER

Editor Diana Todd
Associate Editors Harry W. Shenton III
Gerald Brady
Editorial Assistant Shirley Taylor

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Earthquake Engineering Research Institute
499 14th Street, Suite 320
Oakland, California 94612-1934
Phone:(510)451-0905 Fax:(510)451-5411

News of the Institute



1995 Annual Meeting—First Day Announced

The first day of the 1995 EERI Annual Meeting, which is to be held February 9-11 at the San Francisco Sheraton Palace Hotel, will be devoted to a scenario for a magnitude 7 earthquake on the Hayward Fault. Presentations will cover socio-economic, geologic, and seismological settings; effects of ground failure and ground motions on buildings and lifelines; and case studies and models for emergency response and socio-economic recovery. The next two days of the meeting will focus on various aspects of Interdisciplinary Mitigation, the overall theme of the meeting, and more details will be announced in the next few issues of the Newsletter. Registration materials will be mailed to all members.

A reception is planned the evening of Thursday February 9th in the handsome Beaux Arts Green Room of the Veterans Building, located next to the San Francisco Opera House and City Hall, and designed by the same architect, Arthur Brown, Jr. A number of seismic retrofitting projects are either planned or in progress in the Civic Center area, and the companies involved have been invited to prepare displays for the reception.

Reminder: Poster abstracts are due by December 2 at the EERI office.

Learning From Earthquakes

Northern Thailand Hit by Moderate Earthquake

A moderate earthquake ($m_b = 5.1$) hit northern Thailand on 11 September 1994. The epicenter was located 75 km south-southwest of the provincial capitol, Chiang Rai. The hardest hit city was Phan, approximately 20 km northeast of the epicenter. Though only a moderate earthquake, it caused damage to a number of public buildings (though no injuries were reported). A two-story reinforced concrete hospital suffered severe structural damage and will have to be demolished. In addition, damage was reported in over 50 schools and wats (temples), resulting in the closure of several of these buildings.

Thailand currently has no seismic code. [Dr. Scott A. Ashford of the Asian Institute of Technology, member of a Thai National Earthquake Survey Team that is preparing a full report on the earthquake, contributed the information in this article. An English-language version of the full report will be prepared and shared with EERI.]

Kuril Islands Hit by 7.9 Quake, Tsunami Warnings Issued

A magnitude 7.9 earthquake, centered 20 km beneath the ocean floor, struck about 150 km east of Japan's northernmost main island, Hokkaido, at 10:23 p.m. local time on October 4, 1994. The most severe damage occurred on the Kuril Islands, formerly Japanese territory currently under Russian control, which stretch from the eastern tip of Hokkaido northeast to the southern end of the Kamchatka peninsula. The Russian Defense Military press office reported that the earthquake damage is estimated at 203 billion rubles (\$70M). Of 324 buildings in five military towns, 83 collapsed and 167 were badly damaged. No casualty figures were available. In Japan, the quake was felt as far away as Tokyo (700 km), but only a handful of building collapses were reported. Tsunami warnings were issued throughout the Pacific, including Hawaii. Wave heights were not extreme. The largest wave height, about 3 m, was reported on Etorofu Island, in the Kurils. In the Japanese islands, wave heights were less than 2 m. [Prof. S. Otani, Univ. of Tokyo, and Prof. L. Finn, Univ. of British Columbia, contributed to this report. EERI is not sending a reconnaissance team, but will receive reports from EERI member Harry Yeh, sponsored by NSF, and others.]