

Announcements

Tokyo to Host US Trade Show on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief

On February 13-14, 1997, Commercial Service Tokyo will hold its first trade show for U.S. companies and exporters of products and services in fields related to emergency preparedness and disaster relief. The show, entitled "U.S. Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief 1997," will be held at the U.S. Trade Center in Tokyo and is open to all U.S. companies with products and services applicable to preparing for, surviving, and restoring normal conditions following emergencies and natural disasters including earthquakes, typhoons, and fires.

Japan has been fraught with emergencies over the last two years (including the major earthquake in Kobe, the subway gas attacks, and a Hokkaido tunnel collapse) that have tested not only the resolve of the Japanese, but also the government's ability to respond and cope with unforeseen events. The importance of risk and crisis management has come to the surface.

Public officials from across Japan as well as private business representatives will be attending the trade show to learn how we cope in the U.S. and what kinds of products and services we offer to make preparation and response to emergencies and disasters prompt and worthwhile. U.S. companies in this field are seen as experts and innovators. Companies interested in participating should contact Ms. Tamami Imai at the Commercial Service, U.S. Embassy Tokyo (phone: 011-813-3224-5876; fax: 011-813-3589-4235).

Learning from Earthquakes

6.4 Quake Kills 11 in Peru

A magnitude 6.4 earthquake centered in the Pacific Ocean about 80 miles west of the resort town of Nazca, Peru (pop. 25,000), brought devastation to that community and was felt as far away as the capital city of Lima, about 235 miles to the north. Early estimates put the number of dead at 11 with many hundreds injured. Nazca's mayor estimated that 95 percent of the adobe and brick homes in his town were damaged. Electricity and phone service was disrupted.

The quake also caused damage to Ica, a city of 160,000 people 160 miles southeast of the capital. The Agriculture Ministry building was reported to be damaged, as was the Cathedral of Ica, another church and several public buildings. Look for details in next month's *Newsletter*.

A Word from the Editor

EERI at Its Best—The Annual General Meeting

The EERI Bylaws state, "The format of the Annual General Meeting shall consist of a session dedicated to a discussion of the business affairs of the Institute for the benefit of the members . . ." but, believe me, the greatest benefit to be gained from attending the Annual Meeting is NOT the information you will glean from the brief business meeting. The greatest benefit comes from the combination of attending the unique and stimulating technical presentations together with joining in the intimate gatherings of the forums and committees.

The EERI technical program is not your typical earthquake conference program. No open call for papers is issued. Instead, the program is planned around a central concept, with specific topics selected by the Organizing Committee and assigned to stimulating speakers. Real world application of knowledge is featured rather than academic dissertations. Papers and presentations are prepared specifically to fit the theme and session concepts. Thus the presentations in each session combine to create a cohesive story, rather than being a patched-together pastiche of papers by eager-to-be-published authors.

Into this stimulating mix is added the meetings of the EERI forums and committees. Any Annual Meeting participant may attend any forum and most committee meetings on Friday and Saturday mornings. These meetings offer a chance to sit down with a small group of colleagues with similar interests and bat ideas around in an informal setting.

Keep an eye open for the program and registration materials which will be mailed soon. This year's meeting is in Austin, Texas, beginning on the evening of Wednesday, February 12, and concluding on Saturday afternoon, February 15. The Organizing Committee, chaired by Sharon Wood, has put together an outstanding program. If you've never been to an EERI Annual Meeting, this is the year to begin coming. If you are a frequent participant, this is one not to be missed. See you there!

- Your Editor -