

# EERI R I

**EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

**NEWSLETTER**

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## News of the Institute

### New Features in 1999 EERI Roster

EERI members should have received the 1999 Membership Roster in September. You will find it has some new interesting features: a list of the core members of EERI Administrative and Technical Committees, and a section that includes the most important policies adopted by the Board of Directors in recent years.

The purpose of the expanded committee listing is to stimulate members' interest and participation in EERI committees.

The "EERI Adopted Policy" section is for members' easy reference to the Board's decisions that strongly influence EERI activities and provide guidance to the governance of the Institute.

## News of the Profession

### Devastating Earthquakes Strike Greece and Taiwan in September

Following the deadly earthquake that occurred near Izmit, Turkey on August 17, two unrelated, devastating earthquakes occurred in the month of September. Look for reconnaissance reports on these events in upcoming issues of the *EERI Newsletter*.

The first event occurred on Tuesday, September 7, 1999. A magnitude 5.9 earthquake hit Athens, Greece causing more than 100 deaths and thousands of injuries. 50,000 people are estimated to be homeless. The hardest hit areas were the suburbs located north of Athens,

where more than 100 structures, from multistory apartment houses to factories, collapsed. Reports indicate that there was little damage to historical sites located in central Athens. The epicenter was located approximately 12 miles north of the city center, directly under the planned Olympic Village for the 2004 Games in Athens. This was the strongest earthquake to hit Athens since a magnitude 6.0 event in 1914.

The second, stronger event occurred in Taiwan on Tuesday, September 21 at about 1:45 a.m. local time. The event had a preliminary magnitude of 7.6 and was centered about 90 miles south of Taiwan's capital city of Taipei. Twenty four hours after the event, the government reported more than 1,700 deaths, 3,000 still trapped in rubble, 4,000 injuries, and 100,000 homeless.

The damage was most severe in the counties of Taichung and Nantou in central Taiwan, near the epicentral area. Taipei, with a dense population of 2.7 million, suffered relatively minor damage. The epicentral area in central Taiwan has seen a burst of development in recent years; most of the buildings that collapsed were new high-rises. Rescue work has been hampered by damaged roads and bridges, fires, and power and water supply outages. More than 1,000 aftershocks have occurred, several of them with

*(continued on page 3)*



*Collapsed factory in northern suburb of Athens, Greece (photo: AP/Dimitri Messinis)*



*Collapsed building in Nantou County, Taiwan (photo: Agence France-Presse)*

## News of the Institute

### 1999 Endowment Fund Growth Campaign

EERI's Development Committee, under the direction of David Friedman, President of Forell/Elsesser, and Chris Arnold, EERI President and President of Building Systems Development, has launched a fall fundraising campaign for the Endowment Fund. Led off by a very generous anonymous gift of \$10,000, the campaign is appealing to supporters of the Endowment and leaders and members of EERI to make leadership gifts to the Fund.

As the Endowment enters its fifth year of funded projects, the Endowment Committee is currently identifying projects for the year 2000 and faces the difficult task of selecting from many promising and creative suggestions posed by EERI members and other organizations. To reach the goal of \$100,000 annually in funded projects, EERI must build an Endowment Fund of \$2,000,000, hopefully within the next four years. The Endowment Fund is \$800,000 towards the goal; the sooner the goal is reached, the more these promising projects can be supported.

Join the members below who have made generous leadership gifts to the Endowment:

|                         |                              |                      |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>\$10,000</b>         | <b>\$100-\$299</b>           | <b>Other Amounts</b> |
| Anonymous               | David Bergman                | Michael Kreger       |
|                         | Lloyd S. Cluff               | David Sykora         |
| <b>\$2,000</b>          | William J. Hall              |                      |
| George Matsumura        | Robert P. Kennedy            |                      |
| <b>\$1,000</b>          | Gerald D. Lehmer             |                      |
| Bruce Olsen             | Alexander G. Tarics          |                      |
| <b>\$500-\$999</b>      | <b>\$50-\$99</b>             |                      |
| Edward P. Hollis        | James E. and Phyllis McCarty |                      |
| John W. Lowney          | Stanley Scott                |                      |
| Daniel and Lois Shapiro | Mineo Takayama               |                      |

Contributions can be made payable to EERI. Call or e-mail the office for a form or for more information on Endowment activities.

### EERI Team Sent to Investigate Taiwan Earthquake Damage

*(continued from page 1)*  
magnitudes greater than 6.0.

The EERI Taiwan reconnaissance team is led by co-team leaders Michael O'Rourke of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Joe Uzarski, a consulting structural engineer from Richmond, California. The rest of the team consists of Norman Abrahamson of Pacific Gas and Electric Co., Jim Goltz of the Caltech Office of Earthquake Programs, Ignatius Po Lam of Earth Mechanics, Inc., Navin Amin of

Middlebrook + Louie, and Wen Tseng of International Civil Engineering Consultants. The team is coordinating its field efforts through Professor Chin Hsiung Loh at Taiwan National University.

By the time EERI members receive this *Newsletter*, it is expected that the team will have sent information and photos from the field to EERI's webmaster, Brad Koester, for immediate posting on the EERI web site at [www.eeri.org](http://www.eeri.org).

## News of the Profession

### Structural Engineers Needed in Turkey

As a result of the devastating August 17 earthquake in Turkey, Jim Fluker, the Commercial Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Istanbul, has received several requests from private industry and government officials there for names and qualifications of consulting structural engineers who may be able to help with upgrading construction in Turkey. He can be reached by e-mail at [james.fluker@mail.doc.gov](mailto:james.fluker@mail.doc.gov).

## Obituary

### Paul Weidlinger

Paul Weidlinger, founder of Weidlinger Associates, Inc., an EERI Subscribing Member, passed away on September 5, 1999 from complications following a stroke he suffered several weeks earlier. Weidlinger was born in Budapest, Hungary and educated in Czechoslovakia and Switzerland. He moved to the United States in 1943 and opened his firm five years later. Throughout his career, he was recognized as an innovative structural engineer. His interest in dynamic response of structures led Weidlinger to develop methods of analysis and design procedures to protect structures from effects of blast loadings. He served as special consultant to the U.S. State Department in the design of embassies. Weidlinger was an adjunct professor at MIT and Harvard University, and was a member of the National Academy of Engineering, a fellow of ASCE and ACI, and a recipient of the Brown Medal by the Franklin Institute, among other awards. Shortly before he died, Weidlinger was still exploring the frontiers of engineering with his proposal for "super strength" concrete.