News of the Profession

Major Earthquake Rocks Taiwan

On March 31 (local time 2:52 pm), a major earthquake occurred near the northeast corner of Taiwan, about 65 miles southeast of Taipei. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, this thrust earthquake occurred in a highly seismic and tectonically complex region known as the Taiwan Collision Zone, where the Philippine Sea Plate and the Eurasian Plate are converging (neic.usgs.gov/neis/bulletin/bulletin.html).

The magnitude 6.8 earthquake killed five people and injured 270. The deaths were associated with the collapse of two cranes at a construction site. According to the Central News Agency of Taiwan, the Department of Labor Inspection under the cabinet-level Council for Labor Affairs is investigating the collapse. The council has ordered an assessment of current laws on the stress tolerance level of construction cranes (www.can.com.tw/eng).

EERI members Professors Loh, Tsai, and Yao were in the field conducting investigations within hours of the quake. They will soon post a report on the web site of the National Center for Research on Earthquake Engineering (www.ncree.gov.tw). EERI's web site will also link to this report.

Damage to residential building in Taiwan. Check EERI's Housing Encyclopedia for a complete description of this construction type.

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News of the Institute

7NCEE Presentation Sessions

Following is a preliminary list of non-plenary presentation sessions at the 7th U.S. National Conference on Earthquake Engineering, scheduled for July 21-25 in Boston. By now, EERI members should have received the preliminary program in the mail with registration information. Registration is available online at www.eeri.org/news/Meetings/7nceef.html.

Monday Morning Sessions, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm, July 22, 2002
1: ST-1 STRUCTURES: Instrumentation and Monitoring
3: GM-1 GROUND MOTIONS: Seismic Hazard and Risk Analysis
4: LE-1 LOSS ESTIMATION: Case Studies
5: LS-1 LESSONS from Recent Earthquakes
6: DC-1 DESIGN CRITERIA: Advanced Analysis
7: SI-1 SOCIAL ISSUES: Risk Analysis

Monday Afternoon Sessions, 1:40 - 3:30 pm
8: PS-2 PANEL SESSION: NEES-1
9: PS-5 PANEL SESSION: Catastrophe Models
10: ST-18 STRUCTURES: Housing Encyclopedia

Monday Late Afternoon Sessions, 4:00 - 5:50 pm
11: ST-3 STRUCTURES: Analytical Modeling of Bldg. Comps. & Systems II
12: ST-4 STRUCTURES: Performance-Based Evaluation
13: BR-1 BRIDGES: Seismic Analysis and Design of Bridges
14: GM-2 GROUND MOTIONS: Site Effects: Seismoological Aspects and Microzonation Studies
15: LE-2 LOSS ESTIMATION: Hazard and Damage Models
16: ST-16 STRUCTURES: Masonry Structures
17: NS-1 NEES: Experimental Facilities

Tuesday Morning Sessions, 10:30 am - 12:20 pm, July 23, 2002
18: ST-5 STRUCTURES: Estimation of Deformation Demands
20: AT-1 ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES: Supplemental Dampers in Symmetric and Asymmetric Structures
21: GS-1 GEOTECHNICAL STRUCTURES: Liquefaction and Earth-Retaining Structures
22: AW-1 AWARENESS AND EDUCATION
23: SI-2 SOCIAL ISSUES: Hazard Management
24: RR-1 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY: Post-EQ Resp. & Rec. Approaches

Tuesday Afternoon Sessions, 1:50 - 3:40 pm
26: POSTERS in the following topic areas: Bridges, Design Criteria, Engineering Practice, Ground Motions, Geotechnical Structures, Response and Recovery, Seismic Code Issues, and Structures
27: PS-7 PANEL SESSION: Insurers
28: BR-4 BRIDGES: Seismic Eval. and Mitigation of Bridges in Mid-America
29: ST-6 STRUCTURES: Seismic Fragility as Measure of Performance