



**EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
NEWSLETTER**

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News of the Profession

Algeria Hit by Earthquake on May 21, 2003

At 7:44 p.m. local time on Wednesday, May 21, 2003, a magnitude 6.8 earthquake shook northeastern Algeria, severely damaging the city of Boumerdes (about 60 km east of Algiers), the capital city of Algiers, and a number of small cities in between. The damage also affected several municipalities to the south of the epicenter, which was 10.0 kilometers deep and located at 36.90 N 3.71 E. The event was felt as far away as Monaco and southwestern Spain. A tsunami generated with an estimated wave height of 2 m caused damage to boats and underwater telephone cables off the Balearic Islands, Spain.



Failure of a multistory residential structure in Algeria (photo courtesy of Michel Sandrin).

Under the auspices of EERI's National Science Foundation-funded Learning from Earthquakes program, EERI member Fouad Bendimerad of Risk Management Solutions in Newark, California, is leading an EERI reconnaissance team surveying the damage. Other team members are Omar Khemici of EQECAT in Oakland, California; Allaoua Kartoum of Folsom, California; D.J. Belarbi of the University of Missouri at Rolla; and Jelena Pantelic of the World Bank in Washington, D.C. The team will investigate structural and lifeline performance, emergency response, and other public policy concerns.

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Earthquake off Japan Coast on May 26, 2003

The following report was provided by Professor Masato Motosaka of the Earthquake Disaster Research Laboratory, Tohoku University. He is secretary of the Disaster Committee of the Architectural Institute of Japan.

At 6:24 p.m. local time on Monday, May 26, 2003, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck northeastern Japan and rocked buildings as far away as Tokyo, about 450 km to the south. The epicenter, which was 71 kilometers below the sea floor, was located 38.8 N 141.68 E off the coast of northern Miyagi Prefecture. The Pacific plate and Eurasian plates are converging in this region, and the Pacific plate subducts west beneath the northeastern Japan island arc at about 80 mm per year. This was a typical intraplate earthquake that resulted from the release of compressional stresses within the Pacific plate.

The earthquake seriously injured 23 people and slightly injured 148. There were no deaths reported. There was only slight damage to structures and

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National Earthquake
Hazards Reduction
Program

News of the Profession

New Leader for NSF Engineering Directorate

In May 2003, John A. Brighton, former provost of National-Louis University, replaced Esin Gulari as head of the National Science Foundation's Directorate for Engineering. Brighton will manage a budget of approximately \$540 million.

Brighton previously served from 1991 to 1999 as provost and professor at Pennsylvania State University, where he was also dean of the College of Engineering. Prior to his leadership at Penn State, he held faculty positions at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Michigan State University, Carnegie-Mellon University, and Purdue University. Brighton is a well-known researcher who has authored dozens of research papers and holds numerous patents. He received a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Purdue University in 1963, and also holds bachelor and master of science degrees from Purdue.

Brighton is a Fellow of both the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the American Society for Engineering Education. He has previously served on the Advisory Committee for NSF's engineering directorate, and also as chairman of the Council of Deans of the Engineering Coalition of Schools for Excellence in Education and Leadership.

NIST Names NCST Advisory Committee

Three EERI members have been appointed to serve on the National Construction Safety Team (NCST) Advisory Committee by Arden Bement, Jr., director of the Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The three are Robert D. Hanson, professor emeritus at the University of Michigan; Charles Thornton, chairman and principal of subscribing member Thornton-Tomasetti Inc.; and Kathleen J. Tierney of the Disaster Research Center at the University of Delaware. The 10-member committee will advise the NIST director on carrying out investigations of building failures conducted under the authority of the NCST Act that became law in October 2002. They will advise on the composition and function of investigation teams and other responsibilities under the Act. NIST is currently conducting a 24-month investigation into the World Trade Center disaster. A May 2003 update on the investigation is available at the NIST WTC web site wtc.nist.gov.

The other eight members of the NCST Advisory committee are David S. Collins, president of The Preview Group Inc.; John M. Barsom, president of Barsom Consulting, Ltd.; John L. Bryan, professor emeritus at the University of Maryland; Glenn P. Corbett, professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice; Philip J. Di Nenno, president of Hughes Associates, Inc.; Paul M. Fitzgerald, formerly with EERI subscribing member FM Global; and Forman A. Williams, Center for Energy Research, University of California at San Diego.

The NCST Advisory Committee held its first meeting on April 29, 2003, at NIST in Gaithersburg, Maryland. More information about the NCST Act and current construction safety investigations may be found online at www.nist.gov/ncst.

NEES First Annual Meeting Successful

With the recent election of a board of directors and the organization of working committees, the George E. Brown, Jr., Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES) made several giant steps toward full operation in October 2004. Ian Buckle, newly elected president of the NEES Consortium, opened its first annual meeting, which was held in Park City, Utah, May 21-22, 2003.

Over 200 people attended the event that included a welcome address from Joy Pauschke, NSF program director for NEES; a discussion of NSF expectations for NEES by Galip Ulsoy, director of the Division of Civil and Mechanical Systems; a keynote address by Marta Macias Brown, president of Brown Foundation; and a talk by EERI President Tom O'Rourke about NEHRP re-authorization.

A presentation on the EERI Research Plan by Greg Fenves focused on how NEES research can be used to reduce losses in future earthquakes. Steven McCabe, NSF program director of Structural Systems and Hazard Mitigation, and Steve Mahin, Co-PI on the NEES development project, discussed the anticipated budget for NEES research, the elements of future NEES research solicitations, and "Grand Challenge" awards.

Breakout sessions explored the capabilities of the different equipment sites and the types of research that would make the biggest difference in addressing cross-cutting issues in the earthquake engineering field. A science fair format was used for each of the equipment sites and the system integrator to showcase the capabilities of the facilities and software systems. NEES committees met for the first time to discuss visions and priorities. Conference proceedings and all presentations are posted at www.nees.org.

Algeria Earthquake

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A preliminary report will be issued in a future *Newsletter*.

The earthquake occurred in the boundary region between the Eurasian plate and the African plate. Along this section of the boundary, the African plate is moving northwestward against the Eurasian plate at about 6 mm per year, creating a compressional tectonic environment. Analysis of seismic waves generated by this earthquake shows that it resulted from thrust-faulting.

As of June 4, 2003, 2,266 people were confirmed dead, about 1,200 missing, and about 10,000 injured. The earthquake left approximately 100,000 people homeless and seeking refuge in tents and improvised shelters. While the exact economic cost of this disaster is difficult to assess at this time, it is close to US\$2 billion. The Council of Ministers of the Algerian Government was reported to have allocated US\$1.8 billion for the reconstruction of the affected areas. It is expected that international finance organizations may be officially contacted for loan assistance to cover the cost of recovery. The most seriously affected sector is housing, followed by health and education. Transportation, energy, telecommunications, water, and sanitation have also been affected, but to a lesser degree.

Up to 60 buildings are believed to have collapsed in Algiers. The tragedy of this earthquake was the failure of multistory apartment buildings (usually up to six stories high, including the ground floor). They are rental apartment buildings, built by the state, cooperatives (similar to condominiums), and privately built and owned houses. Structurally, the most frequent failure occurred to reinforced concrete frames with hollow brick infill walls, with complete collapse of ground floors supporting the heavy loads of the buildings above. While the quality of soil (mostly alluvium in the vicinity of the seashore and in the dry beds of numerous old creeks and small rivers that cover the area) definitely contributed to the structural behavior of buildings, poor building materials, inadequate detailing, and apparently a lack of proper supervision appear to be the main causes.



Multistory buildings sustained damage due to failure of columns (photos courtesy of Michel Sandrin).

Japan Earthquake

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lifelines in spite of high PGA values (1.1g at MYG011, 1.0g at IWT007) and high seismic intensity (about IX on the MMI scale). The acceleration time history and damped pseudo-velocity response spectra of ground accelerations show that this earthquake mainly generated high-frequency waves. The resulting ground motion was not powerful enough to cause moderate or major structural damage. The most common damage to concrete buildings was minor shear cracks in walls and columns, especially in old buildings. The earthquake caused four fires, broke water pipes, and disrupted the local telephone network.

Also observed were some large cracks in roads, several landslides, and rock and debris falls. Damage occurred from foundation settlement and liquefaction. There was also interior and exterior nonstructural damage, including damage in many cemeteries. A typical failure was tombstone rotation or toppling. The economic loss is estimated at US\$97.3 million. The Tohoku Earthquake Disaster Investigation Committee will investigate ground motion, performance of buildings and lifelines, injuries, and damage to historical buildings. A link to Moto-saka's full report can be found at EERI's home page at www.eeri.org.



Damage caused by foundation settlement in Ofunato (photo courtesy of National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention).

News of the Membership

Members Honored Nationally and Internationally

Sergio Alcocer, EERI Board member and chair of the International Activities Committee, was appointed April 29, 2003, as the ninth director of the Institute of Engineering by the Board of Regents of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Established 47 years ago, the institute is the leading Mexican research organization in engineering disciplines and one of the foremost centers of earthquake engineering in the world. The institute has been led by the late Prof. Emilio Rosenblueth and by Prof. Luis Esteva, current president of the International Association for Earthquake Engineering. The 800-person institute has 100 full-time researchers and 400 undergraduate and graduate research assistants.

Robert J. McNamara, S.E., of McNamara/Salvia, Inc., of Boston, Massachusetts, has been awarded a lifetime achievement award from the American Institute of Steel Construction. McNamara is a highly regarded steel designer who has a large body of respected projects, including many staggered truss-framed structures. His specialty is conceptual engineering.

On March 29, 2003, the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) inducted **George Mader** into AICP's College of Fellows. Mader was recognized for his extensive work in integrating geologic hazards information with planning at local, regional, state, national, and international levels. He has been actively involved on committees and commissions incorporating sound planning to reduce seismic hazards and was chairman of the California Seismic Safety Commission. Election to the Fellowship is granted to planners who have been longtime members

of AICP and have demonstrated excellence in professional practice, teaching and mentoring, research, community service, leadership, and communication. Currently, more than 12,000 practicing urban and rural planners in North America and elsewhere have AICP certification. Of those, less than 260 have attained the status of Fellow.

Ahsan Kareem, chair of the University of Notre Dame's Civil Engineering and Geological Sciences Department, has been named the recipient of the 2002 Jack E. Cermak Medal. This medal was established by the American Society of Civil Engineers to honor the lifetime achievements of Jack E. Cermak, a Colorado State University professor who made many significant contributions to teaching, research, and practice in basic and applied problems of environmental science and fluid mechanics. The medal is presented annually in recognition of outstanding contributions to research and practice in wind engineering. Kareem's research focuses on the environmental loads of wind, waves and earthquakes on structures; the associated dynamic behavior of the structures; and risk assessment.

Shih-Chi Liu received the 2003 Appreciation Prize by the Architectural Institute of Japan for his leadership in fostering U.S.-Japan collaboration

in earthquake disaster mitigation technology. This award is presented each year to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the cultural development of architecture in Japan. Liu has taken a leading role as a program director of research and development in earthquake engineering and earthquake disaster mitigation at the National Science Foundation for the past 25 years. He has been enthusiastically devoted to planning and promoting international projects on earthquake disaster mitigation in Japan, China, Korea, and Taiwan. Liu was instrumental in concluding a bilateral agreement between the United States and Japan on "Research on Seismically Resistant Structures Using Large-Scale Facilities" in 1980, which was established as a part of the U.S.-Japan Cooperation on the Use of Natural Resources (UJNR). Under this research, pseudo-dynamic experiments on a full-scale seven-story reinforced concrete frame and static experiments on a full-scale six-story steel frame were conducted. These and many other cooperative projects planned and promoted by Liu have contributed to the exchange of Japanese researchers with overseas researchers, international dissemination of the Japanese research results, and promotion of research on earthquake disaster prevention in Japan.

Call for Abstracts

World Congress on Natural Disaster Mitigation

The India Institution of Engineers, under the aegis of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), is organizing the World Congress on Natural Disaster Mitigation, February 19-21, 2004, in New Delhi, India. The objective of the congress is to provide a multidisciplinary forum for engineers, architects, planners, technocrats, scientists, disaster managers, international and voluntary agencies, and others working in the field of natural disaster mitigation and management to meet and share ideas, achievements, and experiences. Discussions will lead to the development of an *Action Plan for Natural Disaster Mitigation and Management*. Abstracts of 200 to 300 words for poster or oral presentation are due by July 15. For more information on session topics and abstract submittal, visit www.wfeo-cee.org.

News of the Profession

Nominations Solicited for the Alfred E. Alquist Award

The California Earthquake Safety Foundation is soliciting nominations for the Alfred E. Alquist Award for Achievements in Earthquake Safety to be awarded in the year 2004. This award recognizes individuals, organizations, or both, that have made outstanding contributions to seismic safety in California. Awards are given in areas that include basic and applied research, education, volunteer services, and program implementation.

Past award recipients include elected leaders, educators, engineers, architects, disaster specialists, governmental advisors, and businesses. One to three awards are given each year. Posthumous awards are not made. A candidate may be nominated by another individual, a firm, or an agency. Letters describing a nominee's background and accomplishments should be sent to the California Earthquake Safety Foundation, c/o Christopher Rojahn, Applied Technology Council, 201 Redwood Shores Parkway, Suite 240, Redwood City, CA 94065. The deadline for nominations is September 30.

The California Earthquake Safety Foundation was founded in 1985 with the specific purpose of promoting earthquake safety in California. Governed by a volunteer board of directors, it relies on tax-deductible donations to support its activities. For more information, contact Chairman Chris Rojahn, phone 650/595-1542, fax 650/593-2320, or e-mail crojahn@ATCouncil.org.

Publications

Geotechnical Data Workshop Proceedings

A book entitled *Proceedings: Workshop on Archiving and Web Dissemination of Geotechnical Data* is available in paperback form for purchase (with most figures in color), or online at no charge. Sponsored by the Consortium of Organizations for Strong-Motion Observation Systems (COSMOS) and the Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center Lifelines Program, the workshop was held in Richmond, California, October 4 and 5, 2001.

The workshop was convened to address the need to ensure that important geotechnical data are readily available to the broad user community with its wide-ranging spectrum of needs. The objective of the workshop was to develop consensus recommendations for classifying, archiving, and web dissemination of the various types of geotechnical data. Over the years, geotechnical data have generally been col-

lected following current professional practices, but consistent standards and quality practices have not been followed. The *Proceedings* papers describe the state of practice, identify specific research and developmental needs, and put forward recommendations that describe a clear path forward to implement archiving and web dissemination of geotechnical data to meet user needs.

The cost of the printed *Proceedings* to those who are not COSMOS members is \$52. (Since COSMOS charges \$50 annually for individual memberships, it is actually more cost effective to join and get a free copy.) Alternatively, the *Proceedings* can be accessed from the COSMOS web site: www.cosmos-eq.org. Click on Projects, then Geotechnical db Pilot Project, then Homepage, then the 01Workshop tab.

Call for Abstracts

Critical Facilities Seminar

The Applied Technology Council (ATC) and the Multidisciplinary Center for Earthquake Engineering Research (MCEER) will hold the third ATC Seminar on Seismic Design, Performance, and Retrofit of Nonstructural Components in Critical Facilities in the Los Angeles, California, area, October 23-24, 2003. Funded by the National Science Foundation, the seminar will present current research, practice, and informed thinking pertinent to seismic design, performance, and retrofit of nonstructural components and distribution systems in buildings, with a special focus on critical facilities. The seminar components and systems include supports and bracing for elevator systems, ceilings, partitions, cladding, glazing, contents, water piping systems, and mechanical and electrical equipment. Nonstructural components or systems in facilities with critical functions (e.g., computer centers, hospitals, manufacturing plants with hazardous materials, museums with fragile and valuable collection items) are of special interest.

Persons wishing to present a paper should submit an abstract by July 29, 2003. Abstracts should be one page and single spaced. They should not exceed 250 words in length. Authors should indicate the presentation format (verbal or poster) in the upper right corner. Abstracts should be submitted to: ATC-29-2 Project, Applied Technology Council, 201 Redwood Shores Parkway, Suite 240, Redwood City, CA 94065; fax: 650/593-2320; e-mail: atc@ATCouncil.org.

Papers not to exceed 14 pages in length will be due September 26, 2003, in order to publish the seminar proceedings by the opening day. For more information visit, www.ATCouncil.org.

News of the Profession

News from Canada

The Canadian Association for Earthquake Engineering (CAEE) announced its newly elected board of directors. The incoming president is EERI member Murat Saatcioglu of the University of Ottawa. The newly elected directors include Vincent Latendresse, Ahmed Ghobarah, Carlos Ventura (all three EERI members), Martin Lawrence, Jag Humar, and Don Kennedy. Past President Don Anderson will continue as an ex-officio member of the board, along with returning Directors John Adams and EERI member John Sherstobitoff. Saatcioglu commented on the importance of strengthening international links with sister institutions around the world to foster mutually beneficial collaboration. EERI recently approached CAEE about establishing a more formal relationship. Saatcioglu foresees similar links with institutions in Japan and New Zealand, for example.

As host of the 13th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering (13WCEE), to be held in Vancouver August 1-6, 2004, CAEE affirms that preparations are well underway, thanks to the diligent work of the local organizers and the Technical Program Committee under the leadership of EERI member Art Heidebrecht. For details, visit the conference web site at www.13wcee.com.

Calls for Abstracts

Disaster Management Conferences in India

Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University and the Society for Communal Harmony, National Integration, and Social Justice are sponsoring the **World Conference on Disaster Management, Infrastructure, and Control Systems** to be held October 29-31, 2003, in Hyderabad, India. The focus is on the mitigation of disasters of all types through control systems and infrastructure planning. Abstracts of about 300 words are due by July 31. Authors will receive acceptances by August 30, and full papers not exceeding eight pages will be due by September 15. For more information, visit www.schanisj.com.

The Birla Institute of Technology and Science is hosting the **Second Conference on Disaster Management: Case Histories of Disasters** to be held November 14-16, 2003, in Pilani, India. The focus will be on disaster management case histories dealing with earthquakes, floods, cyclones, and drought. Abstracts are due by July 15. For more information, contact Professor Satyendra P. Gupta, e-mail spgupta@bits-pilani.ac.in.

Publications

Redevelopment After Earthquakes

Spangle Associates, a firm specializing in urban planning and research, recently published *Redevelopment After Earthquakes*. Funded by the National Science Foundation, it is derived from a study about the role that redevelopment can play in recovering from earthquakes and other natural disasters.

Based on case studies of eleven cities that were damaged by major disasters, the study finds that redevelopment and reconstruction can be mutually beneficial. The reconstruction period provides a "window of opportunity" to implement existing plans for redevelopment project areas.

The report includes recommendations for all levels of government. It urges state and federal governments to help make redevelopment more straightforward and easier to implement after a disaster. An appendix contains information on the redevelopment laws from ten different states.

The report's price is \$18 to cover postage and handling. It can be ordered from Spangle Associates, 3240 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028-7592; phone 650/854-6001; fax 650/854-6070. For additional information, visit www.spangleassociates.com.

News of the Profession

Sánchez-Sesma Receives ISET Trifunac Award

The 2002 Indian Society of Earthquake Technology (ISET) Trifunac Award for Significant Contributions in Strong-Motion Earthquake Studies was awarded to Francisco José Sánchez-Sesma, director of the Institute of Engineering, National Autonomous University of Mexico.

Sánchez-Sesma is president of the Mexican Society of Earthquake Engineering (SMIS), with which EERI recently established a cooperative agreement (see page 1 of the January 2003 *Newsletter*). He is a leading world expert on seismic wave propagation and site effects on

strong ground motion. His research involves mostly theoretical but also experimental and practical aspects of elastic wave propagation — in particular, understanding and modeling the effects of the local soil conditions and geology on the characteristics of ground motion.

CALENDAR

Items that have appeared previously are severely abbreviated. The issue containing the first, or most informative, appearance is indicated at the entry's end. Items listed for the first time are shown in **bold**.

2003

JULY

6-9. 9th Int'l Conf. on Applications of Statistics and Probability in Civil Engineering, San Francisco, CA. Info: icasp9.berkeley.edu (6/02)

11-12. Park and Paulay Symposium, Christchurch, New Zealand. Info: www.civil.canterbury.ac.nz (1/03)

AUGUST

3-6. Extreme Loading Conf. Toronto, Canada. Info: www.extremeloading2003.com (6/02)

10-13. 6th U.S. Conf. and Workshop on Lifeline Earthquake Engineering (TCLEE), Long Beach, CA. Info: www.asce.org/conferences/tclee2003/ (9/02)

25-27. XI Ibero-American Earthquake Engineering Seminar, Mendoza, Argentina. Info: sibis.uncu.edu.ar (2/03)

SEPTEMBER

7-10. 20th Annual Association of State Dam Safety Officials Conf., Minneapolis, MN. Info: www.damsafety.org (2/03)

15-20. Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG) 2003, Vail, CO. Info: www.aegweb.org (5/03)

18-20. 2003 SEAOC Convention, Lake Tahoe, CA. E-mail: thale@oshpd.state.ca.us (12/02)

22-24. 4th Int'l Conf. on Earthquake-Resistant Engineering Structures, Ancona, Italy. Info: www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2003/eres03/ (8/02)

OCTOBER

6-10. 8th World Seminar on Seismic Isolation, Energy Dissipation, and Active Vibration Control of Structures, Yerevan, Armenia. Info: www.aau.am (10/02)

www.aau.am (10/02)

22-24. 28th Annual Conf. on Deep Foundations, Miami Beach, FL. Info: www.dfi.org/conferences.asp (1/03)

23-24. ATC Seminar on Seismic Design, Performance, and Retrofit of Nonstructural Components in Critical Facilities, Los Angeles area. See page 5. (7/03)

29-31. World Conf. on Disaster Management, Infrastructure, and Control Systems, Hyderabad, India. See page 6. (7/03)

30-31. 2nd Int'l Symposium on New Technologies for Urban Safety in Megacities of Asia, Tokyo, Japan. Info: icus.iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp/isus03/ (6/03)

NOVEMBER

10-14. 30th Int'l Conf. on Remote Sensing of the Environment, Honolulu, HI. Info: isrse.pdc.org (6/03)

13-15. 1st Int'l Conf. on Structural Health Monitoring, Tokyo, Japan. Info: www.civil.ibaraki.ac.jp/shmii/ (5/03)

14-16. 2nd Conf. on Disaster Management: Case Histories of Disasters, Pilani, India. See page 6. (7/03)

19-22. 14th Mexican National Conf. on Earthquake Engineering, León-Guanajuato, México. Info: www.smis.org.mx (4/03)

DECEMBER

3-5. International Seismic Instrument and Emergency Rescue Equipment Exhibition, Beijing, China. Info: www.exh.dizhen.ac.cn (3/03, 6/03)

8-9. ACI Seismic Bridge Design and Retrofit Conf. La Jolla, CA. See page 7. (7/03)

16-18. 9th East Asia Pacific Conf. on Structural Engineering and Construction, Bali, Indonesia. Info: www.si.itb.ac.id/easec9 (10/02)

2004

FEBRUARY

4-7. EERI Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA.

19-21. World Conf. on Natural Disaster Mitigation, New Delhi, India. See page 4. (7/03)

APRIL

13-17. 5th Int'l Conf. on Case Histories in Geotechnical Engineering, New York, NY. Info: www.umn.edu/~eqconf/5thCHConf (8/02, 1/03, 3/03)

MAY

22-26. Structures 2004, Nashville, TN. Info: www.asce.org/conferences/structures2004/ (8/02)

JULY

18-23. Composite Construction in Steel and Concrete V, Kruger National Park, South Africa. Info: www.engconfintl.org/4ab.html (12/02)

AUGUST

1-6. 13th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Info: www.13wcee.com (7/02, 3/03)

8-11. MOVIC 04 Motion and Vibration Control Conference, Washington University, St. Louis, MO. (11/02)

Announcement

ACI Conference on Seismic Bridge Design and Retrofit

An American Concrete Institute international conference on Seismic Bridge Design and Retrofit for Earthquake Resistance is scheduled for December 8-9, 2003, in La Jolla, California. Topics include new seismic design approaches, case studies from around the world, application of seismic response modification devices, and advances in earthquake source-to-site characterization and in soil-foundation structure interaction. For more information, contact Phyllis Erebor, Conference Liaison, phone: 248/848.3784; e-mail: phyllis.erebor@concrete.org; web: www.aci-int.org. Click on *Events* in the top bar, then *International Conference*.

News of the Institute

EERI Writes to Congress in Support of ANSS

During the first week of June, EERI President Tom O'Rourke sent the following letter to U.S. congressional representatives.

Dear Representative:

I am writing to you as the President of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, to ask you to add your signature to the Dear Colleague letter sent to you by Representatives Nick Smith and Zoe Lofgren on June 2nd, requesting your support for an appropriation of \$10 million in the FY 2004 budget for the **Advanced National Seismic Network (ANSS)**. On June 16th, the letter will be sent to the Honorable Charles H. Taylor, Chairman, and the Honorable Norman Dicks, Ranking Member of the Appropriations Subcommittee of the Interior Committee. It speaks eloquently of the need to increase funding for an integrated seismic monitoring network nationwide. Today 75 million people live in areas subject to moderate to high earthquake risk — 46 million outside the state of California. Authorized in 2000 as part of the

National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP), ANSS has been funded at only about one-tenth of the authorized level.

In recent years, EERI has been deeply concerned about the eroding levels of funding for earthquake loss reduction. In my recent testimony before the Research Subcommittee of the House Science Committee, I noted that ANSS is intended to provide essential strong-motion data critical to making the next advance in understanding how to reduce the growth of earthquake risk nationwide. **ANSS is the most critical new program proposed for NEHRP.** The data that ANSS provides will help engineers design buildings to prevent loss of life in earthquakes, and the data will help first responders direct lifesaving resources to critical areas in the moments immediately following an earthquake. Putting the instrumentation in after the next earthquake, which may occur in any one of 39 states, will be too late.

EERI is a national, nonprofit techni-

cal society of engineers, geoscientists, architects, planners, public officials, and social scientists. EERI members include researchers, practicing professionals, educators, government officials, and building code regulators. Our objective is to reduce earthquake risk by advancing the science and practice of earthquake engineering; by improving the understanding of the impact of earthquakes on the physical, social, economic, political, and cultural environment; and by advocating comprehensive and realistic measures for reducing the harmful effects of earthquakes. We represent the prime users of ANSS information and as such recognize its importance to the long-term seismic safety of the nation.

At your convenience, I would be happy to meet with you or your staff to discuss issues related to ANSS and reauthorization of the NEHRP program.

Sincerely,
Thomas D. O'Rourke
President, EERI



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