

MCEER Conducts Seventh U.S.-Japan Workshop on Liquefaction, Ground Deformation and Lifeline Performance

The 7th U.S.-Japan Workshop on Earthquake Resistant Design of Lifeline Facilities and Countermeasures Against Soil Liquefaction was held on August 15-17, 1999 in Seattle, Washington, immediately following the 5th U.S. Conference on Lifeline Earthquake Engineering. Both technical meetings were held in the Sheraton Hotel and Towers. Seattle is a fitting place for such a workshop because of its location in an area of significant seismic hazards. About one month before the conference, the Western Washington earthquake struck on July 3, 1999 with a 5.9 magnitude at an epicentral location just 70 km from Seattle.

The workshop is the seventh in a series that began in 1988. The first was held in Tokyo and Niigata, Japan on November 16-19, 1988. The proceedings of this workshop were published by the Association for the Development of Earthquake Prediction, and are available from MCEER. The second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth workshops were held in Buffalo and Ithaca, NY, on September 26-29, 1989, San Francisco, CA on December 17-19, 1990, Honolulu, HI on May 27-29, 1992, Snowbird, UT on September 29-30 and October 1, 1994, and Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan on June 11-13, 1996, respectively.

The workshop co-chairs were Professors Masanori Hamada of Waseda University, T.D. O'Rourke of Cornell University, and J.P. Bardet of the University of Southern California. The workshop was supported by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Science, Sports, and Culture and the National Science Foundation (NSF), both of which contributed to the workshop through the U.S.-Japan Cooperative Research in Urban Earthquake Disaster Mitigation Program. MCEER organized the workshop and will publish the workshop proceedings. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) also supported the workshop and the travel of the U.S. participants.

There were 25 U.S. and 25 Japanese participants. The main workshop themes were: 1) liquefaction and large ground deformation, 2) lifeline performance and mitigation against earthquake effects, and 3) waterfront facilities, buildings, and deep foundation performance and earthquake effects. U.S. and Japanese reporters for each of these themes summarized key findings, advances, and future directions in each subject area.

The workshop proceedings will be published by MCEER late in 1999. The proceedings will contain approximately 50 papers and the summaries of the workshop reporters. Additional information about the workshop can be found on our web site at <http://mceer.buffalo.edu>. ❖



Several participants of the 7th U.S.-Japan Workshop took part in a boat tour of Seattle before the event. Shown from left are S.H. Goh, Y. Sano, E. Mostafa, T. O'Rourke, S.S. Jeon and S. Toprak.