

FOREWARD

The Secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, IDNDR, at Geneva has launched an international project on seismic risk assessment at cities, RADIUS. The objective of the RADIUS project is to develop manuals for earthquake damage scenario for urban areas in order to increase decision-maker's awareness about earthquake disaster and to urge the decision maker to take some needed actions.

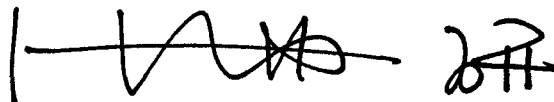
Currently IDNDR Secretariat is collecting manuals which have been developed by earthquake prone-cities in the world. In addition, the Secretariat is undertaking case-studies at 9 cities in Latin American region, in Asian region, and in the rest regions. The Secretariat will put together the experiences and outcomes from case-studies into guidelines for charting earthquake damage scenario and seismic risk assessment in city.

The Secretariat has mandated three international institutes to implement case-study in 9 cities. INCEDE is one of these three institutes. Others are Geo-Hazard International, GHI, of the Stanford University, the United States, and Bureau de Recherches Geologiques et Minieres, BRGM, France.

INCEDE is supposed to be responsible for three cities in Asia, Bandung of Indonesia, Zigong of China and Tashkent of Uzbekistan. In the end of March, 1998, I made 6-day stay in Tashkent to discuss with people in charge of the RADIUS project in Tashkent-city. I took opportunities to visit organizations involved in disaster management to exchange views with these people, while I was in the city.

It is well-known that the city was hit by an earthquake with magnitude 5.1 in 1966 April. The earthquake reportedly gave serious damage to Tashkent: What impressed me personally in this stay was that Tashkent people have learned many lessons from the disaster and they have made efforts for 30 years to reflect these lessons on measures against next earthquakes which might attack the city again. So that, I observed, many organizations in charge of disasters are well prepared. It should be noted that most part of these achievement had been made while the city was under the socialistic structure, despite of a serious lack of resources. It seems to me that the structure itself might have been essential for people to bring all resources available together into measures. These measures are an invaluable asset which Tashkent people should maintain. I am concerned about whether,

under the new structure since 1992, market-economy, the people could mobilize fully the asset and develop the asset further. If they could do it successfully, it would encourage the rest of the world struggling with earthquake disaster to take some actions needed, as well as the asset itself.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a final flourish.

Ken SUDO
Professor
International Center for Disaster-
Mitigation Engineering (INCEDE)
Institute of Industrial Science
The University of Tokyo.