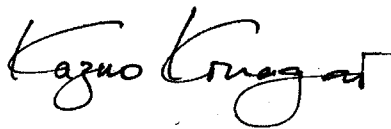


Foreword

An intense earthquake (M 7.6) occurred in North Eastern Frontier Area of Pakistan (Epicenter: 34.493°N, 73.629E), about 90 km NNE of Islamabad at 8:28 local time, Oct. 8, 2005. In terms of death toll and its impact on society, this massive earthquake can be compared with the Kanto killer earthquake of 1923, Japan, whose magnitude was later estimated to have been between 7.9 and 8.4 on the Richter scale. According to the most reliable sources, at least 105,385 fell victim to this earthquake and over 37,000 went missing. This heavy toll of lives stimulated a sharp rise in demand in Japan for modern and robust society, and researchers were more deeply involved in earthquake resistant designs with great supports from all over the world. Actually, the blueprint of the present Tokyo dates back to this post-earthquake time. Parks were arranged all over Tokyo to function as refugee spots, and public facilities were constructed with the updated strict standards to accommodate refugees. There is thus a close similarity between the Kanto Earthquake and the Muzaffarabad Earthquake, Pakistan. "Now" shall be the best time for Pakistan people to take necessary actions and initiative for earthquake-proof systems. The Muzaffarabad earthquake is not an event that cannot happen in Japan. Topography and geology of the areas affected by the Muzaffarabad earthquake is exactly like those in Akaishi-Mountains, Japan, which is now under serious threat of a possible massive Tonankai earthquake, and thus this earthquake teaches Japanese experts and decision makers important lessons. ERS members have been involved in both reconnaissance and rehabilitation activities. The members will be happy further collaborating with experts worldwide for our next generations.



Kazuo KONAGAI, Professor