FOREWORD

We live in a computer age. The computer network is indispensable for our modern life. You can not imagine a single day when you do not click on your PC. You can get vital information through the PC that is connected with the infinite world beyond its screen.

Once an earthquake happens somewhere in the world, the computer network serves as a significantly powerful tool for the researchers' community. You can also access to the local news website and obtain the most recently updated spectacular damage to the hardest-hit areas. You may feel that you know everything even if you are at home. L'Aquila earthquake in Italy, Java and Sumatra earthquakes in Indonesia in 2009, and Haiti and Chile earthquakes in 2010 are not exceptions to this.

However, once you visit the affected areas, you may realize that the information given through the mass media was just one side of the whole. Repeatedly broadcasted scenes and photos uploaded on the web news are not necessarily the typical damage of the event. You may find other new aspects there that tell you essential lessons to be learned from the damage. The messages that should be shared among us for the future preparedness, I believe, can be received and delivered by the well-experienced professionals, and they can not be done by those of just watching-for-a-scoop.

We live in a computer age. You can access to the various live information through the internet. But yet I believe persistent efforts to investigate damage on site and to gather disaster-related data from the scientific and engineering point of view should be most highly appreciated. They will definitely tell us what should be learned from the damage and shared among us to mitigate the next one, and they are most compelling above all.

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