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International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES)

## Public Education Department Newsletter

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### **Eight National "Earthquake and Safety" Drill in Schools**

Educating children and youngsters on disaster preparedness at nursery, elementary, secondary and high school levels has been developed on a national scale in Iran covering both urban and rural areas. In order to create a deeper understanding of the safety culture at schools, the Public Education Department of International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES) has initiated organizing earthquake and safety programs since 1991. This has been achieved through:

- ♦ Including materials in the textbooks;
- ♦ Showing films;
- ♦ Conducting "safety drills";
- ♦ Holding exhibitions and competitions;
- ♦ Displaying paintings and posters in educational environments; and
- ♦ Using songs and games.

"Safety drills" are among the favorite activities, commencing for the first time in 1999 in 15499 high schools. The Second National Drill on the subject of "Earthquake and Safety" was held in 2000 in all Iran's secondary and high schools covering 45000 schools and 11 million students.



Subsequently, the drill has been performed annually since. In 2003, the drill was performed at a national level covering 16 million children in primary, secondary and high schools across the country. All these drills aim to prepare students for the appropriate and rapid responses during earthquakes.

The "Safety Drill" program has been developed by IIEES (Ministry of Science, Research and Technology) with the cooperation of Ministry of Education, the National Committee for Natural Disaster Reduction (Ministry of Interior), the Iranian Red Crescent Society, and Iran National Television and Radio.

The following chart illustrates the development process of the school "Earthquake Safety Drills" in Iran.

## "Earthquake and Safety" Drills

	Year	Level	Schools	Overall No of Students	No of Boys	No of Girls	Location
First Trial Drill	1996	Primary school	5	1000	600	400	Tehran
Second Trial Drill	1997	High school	3	-	-		Tehran
Tehran Training Drill	1998	High school	1,059	527,237	266,890	260,480	Tehran
First National Drill	1999	High school	15,499	4,580,688	2,324,907	2,255,781	National
Second National Drill	2000	Secondary & High school	45,000	11,000,000	5,776,000	5,224,000	National
Third National Drill	2001	Secondary & High school	48,000	11,800,000	6,176,000	5,624,000	National
Fourth National Drill	2002	Secondary & High school	50,000	12,000,000	6,500,000	5,500,000	National
Fifth National Drill	2003	All levels	110,000	16,027,000	8,297,000	7,730,000	National
Special Post Bam Earthquake	Feb. 2004	All levels	110,000	16,000,000	8,300,000	7,700,000	National
Sixth National Drill	2004	All levels	120,000	15,700,000	8,100,000	7,600,000	National
Seventh National Drill	2005	All levels	140,815	15,264,349	7,872,610	7,391,739	National

The Eight National "Earthquake and Safety" Drill was held in November 29, 2006 in all schools around the country. The Earthquake and Safety bell was broadcasted at 10:14 am from the national radio in 110,000 schools in the country. 14 million students performed the earthquake drills. Some of the photos of this drill which was preformed in the Secondary School, Zahra

Mardani, in Tehran, is presented in following Figures.

The deaf and blind students also actively participated in this drill. Additionally, all the 1100 governmental offices in Qom (one of the cities near Tehran) practiced the "Earthquake and Safety" drill as a pilot study at the same time.



## Identifying the Educational Needs of Deaf Students Before, During and After Earthquakes

The one day educational workshop for deaf students was held in December 20, 2006 in one of Tehran's educational institutes (Nimrooz) with the aim of identifying the common educational needs of deaf students before, during and after earthquakes. The workshop was organized by the International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES) and Special Education Organization. 180 students and their parents as well as the teachers participated in this workshop.



The workshop proposed appropriate methods to reduce the vulnerability of children to earthquakes targeting primary, secondary and high school deaf children, their parents and teachers. The topics discussed in seven various parallel sessions were:

- ♦ Assessment of the learning problems encountering deaf students,
- ♦ The role of teachers in earthquake education and awareness of deaf students before the earthquakes;
- ♦ Cooperation of parents and teachers in nonstructural safety of schools;
- ♦ Assessment of the role of parents and teachers in reducing the consequences of the earthquakes;
- ♦ Characteristics of a safe school for deaf students;
- ♦ Appropriate educational methods in "earthquakes and safety" for deaf students; and
- ♦ Identifying the basic needs of the deaf children immediately after the earthquakes.

Each of the groups consisted of 25 teachers, students and their parents who discussed one of the pre-proposed topics for an hour. In a general session, representatives of these seven groups presented the main points of their discussion to the audience, each in 15 minutes.

The key issues deduced from the presentations were outlined by the workshop coordinators from IIEES and was presented briefly in the last session to all the audience in the workshop.

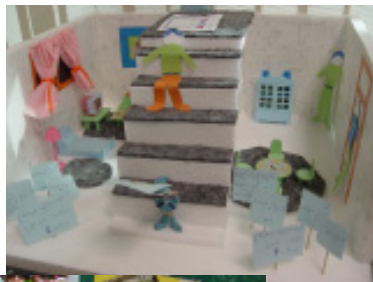


One of the important parts of the workshop was the presentation of two deaf children who survived the Bam earthquake in Dec. 2003, narrating their experiences. Their presentation was coordinated by their teachers and created a highly emotional atmosphere in the session.

The evaluation forms completed by the audience revealed high admiration of the participants from this event which was held for the first time in Iran as a pilot work.

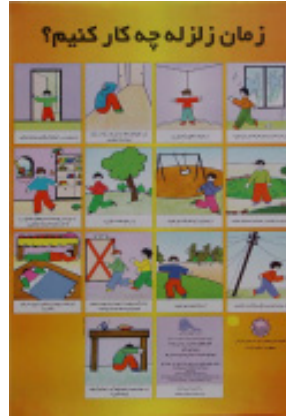
## Achievements of Eight National "Earthquake and Safety" Drill

In accordance with the eight national "Earthquake and Safety" program and in order to familiarize public with the students' activities, an exhibition of written texts, drills simulations, photos, films, articles, paintings, wall magazines, games, posters and models will be held in February 2007 in IIEES. The overall aim of this exhibition is to expand the seismic safety culture in the society.



## Selection of IIEES Educational Publications (Posters)

### "What to Do During an Earthquake"??



This poster has been prepared for preschool and elementary children. The most important earthquake safety measures and useful recommendations have been introduced in this poster along with pictures and simple explanations.

### "Family Earthquake Preparedness"



The safety measures for preparedness before an earthquake, taking shelters during the event, and afterward is presented in this poster for the use of Iranian families.

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