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International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES)

Public Education Department Newsletter

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International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES)

The International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES) is a comprehensive international research institute in the field of earthquake that was established in Iran based on the 24th UNESCO General Conference Resolution DR/250 and the Iranian government approval in 1989; as an independent institute under the Iran's Ministry of Science, Research and Technology.

The main goal of IIEES is seismic risk reduction and mitigation both in Iran and the region by promoting research and education in science and technology related to seismotectonic, seismology and earthquake engineering as well as risk reduction. IIEES activity in research covers all aspects and components of earthquake risk assessment and management; and in education from public education to Ph.D. program in seismology and earthquake engineering. IIEES is composed of four Research Centers: Seismology, Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering, Structural Earthquake Engineering, Risk Management; National Center for Earthquake prediction and Graduate School, Public Education and Information Division.

Public Education Department

Public Education Department has been established with the goal of raising the awareness of society on earthquakes and preparing various groups of the public to reduce the earthquake hazards.

The department's plans are:

- ♦ To improve the safety and to cultivate the preparedness culture against earthquakes among various groups of the society.
- ♦ To compile and research, as well as to prepare the latest experiments already undertaken related to the public education.
- ♦ To use all the developed educational methods and mass media to educate the general public on earthquakes.
- ♦ To create and cooperate in developing data banks in the line with improving the objectives of the public education department.
- ♦ To concentrate on children and adolescents' educational plans as the most vulnerable groups of the society.
- ♦ To create a safety culture by increasing public awareness in society in order to mitigate the earthquake hazards.

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

November 29, 2006

Twelfth Educational Workshop on "Earthquake and Safety" November 5-9, 2006

Public Education Department of International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES) held the Twelfth Educational Workshop on "Earthquake and Safety" on 5th to 9th of November, 2006 from 8:30am to 15:30pm targeting young children (pre-school to pre-university levels) in region 22 of Tehran municipality. This workshop is held annually in coincidence with the "Week of Natural Disaster Reduction". The educational workshop on "Earthquake and Safety" was organized by IIEES with the cooperation of Tehran Education Organization, Red Crescent Society of Iran and the Municipality of Iran in Kossar cultural house in Tehran.

One of the main objectives of the workshop was to develop earthquake preparedness and to increase and expand the seismic safety culture among children at various age levels. In this workshop,



Photos: M.R. Jamali



appropriate safety measures before, during and after earthquakes, correct sheltering during earthquakes and the earthquake concept was presented through direct teaching using various educational media and tools for both boys and girls. The educational programme for pre-school level included teaching the correct sheltering and safety measures at the time of earthquakes in the form of songs, drawings, role-plays and cartoons. The workshop also covered teaching the earth science to secondary and high school students including teaching on earthquakes and faults, and familiarising them with the seismographs, safety kit, search and rescue activities in earthquakes as well as showing educational films.

Additionally, earthquake disaster management class was introduced to high school students for the first time this year. The workshop revealed the high interest of the children and their active participation in these classes which can help in increasing their parent's awareness and preparedness on earthquakes and the gradual development and expansion of the seismic safety culture in Iran.

Eight National “Earthquake and Safety” Drill in Schools

November 29, 2006

Iran has been located in one of the most seismic regions of the world, and every now and then experiences major earthquakes resulting in human casualties and property losses. One of the ways to mitigate these losses is to educate people for disasters. Educating people in and for earthquakes is to increase public awareness and preparedness as well as to enhance the technical knowledge in the field of construction to build safer buildings and structures.

Experiences in recent earthquakes in Iran have shown that children are the most vulnerable groups of the society. There are almost 15,000,000 students studying at different levels in schools in Iran. This emphasizes that focusing on public education about earthquake preparedness in schools has a special priority. Schools are among one of the most important and fundamental organizations of a country, which build the basis for development in all aspects, including technical, industrial, economical, and social development.

In order to create a deeper understanding of the safety culture at schools, the Public Education Department of IIEES has initiated organizing earthquake and safety programmes since 1991 with the following objectives:

- To improve disaster skills;
- To increase earthquake preparedness;
- To pursue long-lasting training.

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 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. These activities are of great interest to the children, their parents and the



teachers. “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 110,000 educational institutes 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” programme 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 Eight National "Earthquake and Safety" Drill will be held in November 29, 2006 in all schools around the country.

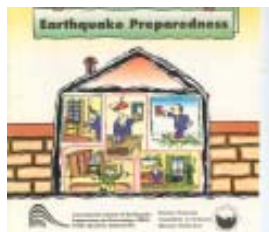


In order to expand the drill simulation from schools to other groups of society, employees of central offices of Ministry of Education in all Iran's provinces will perform earthquake safety measures on the same time by hearing Earthquake Safety bell from national and regional radio broadcasting.

Additionally, in the upcoming drill, all the governmental offices in Qom (one of the cities near Tehran) will practice the "Earthquake and Safety" drill as a pilot study.

Bilingual Publications

The book includes the proper procedures and steps that one should take at home or at work before, during and after an earthquake.



This book is compiled for primary school children, however, it could be useful for preschool children with the help of their teachers and parents.

These books are bilingual (in Persian and English), both as the joint work of IIEES and UNDP.

Upcoming Events

One Day Educational Workshop for Deaf Students

December 20, 2006

The one day educational workshop for deaf students will be held in December 20, 2006 with the aim of identifying the common educational needs of deaf students before, during and after earthquakes. The organizers of this workshop are International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES) and Special Education Organization.

The workshop proposes appropriate methods to reduce the vulnerability of children to earthquakes targeting secondary and high school deaf children, their parents and teachers .

The topics to be discussed in various parallel sessions are as follows:

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

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