

International Earthquake and Tsunami Conference FINAL REPORT

International Earthquake and Tsunami Conference, which was organized by Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers (TCCE), European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) and World Council of Civil Engineers (WCCE) was held in Istanbul, at the Suleyman Demirel Cultural Center of Istanbul Technical University (ITU), on 22 – 24 June 2009.

350 people were present at the opening ceremony on June 22. The guests of honor at the ceremony were ITU President Prof. Muhammed Şahin, Deputy Under-Secretary of Ministry of Public Works Mahmut Küçük, WCCE President Prof. Jose Medem and ECCE Immediate Past President Richard Coackley.

In the exhibition area arranged for conference sponsors, companies were provided with booths to exhibit and promote their products and services.

Conference programme was accredited by IACET (International Association for Continuing Education and Training) with 2,1 points as well the TCCE Professional Training Committee.

Although the number of the audience of conference sessions decreased in the second and third days of the conference, the attendance remained high, with around 250 people. One third of general participants and more than half of paper presenting authors were guests coming from abroad.

As could be seen from the conference programme, the academic sessions covered most of the subjects under the headings of earthquake and tsunami. The keynote speakers, which were meticulously placed in the programme, made presentations reflecting their expertise. Their presentations were envisaged as introductions to the sessions that followed suit, which were of highest quality, therefore setting the tone and quality standards of the conference.

All presentations that were announced in the programme were made, except nine. The authors of these papers were unable to be present in Istanbul due to their personal excuses. Generally, it could be argued that the big majority of presentations were of good quality. As expressed by many paper presenting authors and participants, the programme was well arranged, papers were relevant with the session titles and the presentations were executed smoothly.

Academically speaking, without doubt, the conference successfully transmitted the latest scientific and technological advances in the field of earthquake and tsunami disaster mitigation to participants. The fact that the research results presented at the conference were coming from all around the world, was stimulating for many people, introducing them with new methods and ideas.

The conference produced two publications and a CD. The volume of keynote speeches was published by Springer Verlag and is currently sold and distributed worldwide as a high-quality reference source. The volume of expanded abstracts of papers presented were published by the Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers, accompanied with a CD, which includes all full papers presented in the conference.

Some cultural and entertainment activities were also organized as a part of the conference events. The evening of the first day, participants got together at the garden of the conference venue for the opening cocktail. The gala dinner, which took place on the second day of the conference on board a boat on the Bosphorus, ensured an exceptional and memorable night for everyone on the boat, surrounded with the gorgeous scenery of Istanbul. A photo exhibition was also organized at the Taksim Metro Station (the most crowded area in the city) in cooperation with the Ankara Photography Artists' Association.

In addition to national media, international press was also present at the conference.

In conclusion, International Conference on Earthquake and Tsunami was a success.