

15TH WORLD CONFERENCE ON EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING

24 TO 28 SEPTEMBER 2012
LISBON - PORTUGAL



15 WCEE
LISBOA 2012

www.15wcee.org

NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 3 | APRIL 2012

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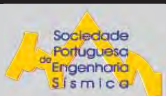
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15 WCEE

WCEE is organized every four years under the auspices of the International Association for Earthquake Engineering, IAEE.

In 2012, 15WCEE will be hosted by the Portuguese Association for Earthquake Engineering, SPES, and takes place in Lisbon.



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ABSTRACT SUBMISSION AND REVIEWING - A TALE OF SUCCESS!

The abstract submission and reviewing process was a resounding success. A total of almost 6000 abstracts (a new conference record) were submitted and approved, from among a group of 85 countries covering 6 of the 7 continents; no abstract were submitted from the 7th continent, Antarctica...



All countries with submitted and approved abstracts shaded in blue

Some countries even submitted more than 400 abstracts each, namely: China, Iran, Italy, Japan and USA.

This massive flow of abstract is a clear indication of the importance and worldwide concern over the varied range of earthquake engineering related issues, while also demonstrating that the world community of earthquake engineering is active and evenly spread out across the world.

The number and quality of the works submitted also serves as a guarantee that the 15WCEE will prove to be an excellent forum for information exchange in which we will all actively participate.

Let's all work together to further ensure the success of our conference!

BREAKING NEWS

The paper submission deadline has been extended until April 30.

This is the absolute limit date.

We're on Facebook. Please join us (you) on
<http://www.facebook.com/15wcee>



The conference Facebook page was recently re-activated, with more than 20 young earthquake engineering oriented administrators, selected from all around the world. There you can follow interesting and updated posts on earthquake engineering related issues and also on Lisbon and Portugal.

E-POSTERS

An e-Poster is a multi-media approach to presenting scientific research – a digital version of the traditional boards, and is displayed on wide screens in designated areas at the 15WCEE.

The e-Poster is basically a "slide" presentation (PowerPoint, PDF presentations or other formats on request) that may include text, figures or images.

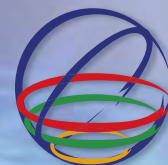
These e-Poster presentations can run unattended or, at certain scheduled times, have its authors present. Each e-Poster will be available during the entire week.

The screens, when idle, will display a menu of the available e-Posters that the delegates can choose.

| Think before you print |

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15WCEE SEMINAR "1ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT EAST JAPAN (TOHOKU) EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI OF MARCH 11, 2011"

The Local Organizing Committee of the 15th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering 15WCEE recently organized a seminar on the 1st Anniversary of the Great East Japan (Tohoku) earthquake and tsunami of March 11, 2011. This seminar was held on March 9, 9:45 GMT, in LNEC (National Laboratory for Civil Engineering) with the intervention of professors Carlos Sousa Oliveira (15WCEE Chairman) and Kazuhiko Kawashima (Tokyo Institute of



General views of the seminar

Technology, via video-conference). LNEC board of directors and the Embassy of Japan in Portugal were represented at their highest level.

The first presentation, by professor Carlos Sousa Oliveira, was entitled "Notes from a visit to Japan one year after the March 11, 2011 Earthquake. Comparisons with the 1755 Lisbon Earthquake."

The second presentation, by professor Kazuhiko Kawashima, was entitled "Ground motion and tsunami induced damage on structures due to the great East Japan earthquake and tsunami of March 11, 2011. Emphasis on damage in bridge structures".

The seminar was broadcast through live-streaming and recorded. The video record of the seminar, divided into 5 parts, can be viewed directly on the conference Facebook page.

LISBON IN MOTION (LIMO) INITIATIVE

The Lisbon in Motion is organized by 15WCEE "young minds" group. It is a 4-day innovative case-study program focused on earthquake risk reduction. Young researchers from different countries and different areas of earth science, engineering, social and economic science collaborate in a Lisbon case-study to create and promote an action plan for earthquake risk reduction (key mitigation activities are: maintenance, rehabilitation, retrofit, education and urban plan) to the future of Lisbon downtown.

As an example of what can be done, participants with a background on RC and masonry structures could provide guidelines for the vulnerability assessment of those structures and discuss solutions for retrofitting in case of large vulnerability. The development of specific enquiry forms is welcome.

Participants with a background in geology and seismology should define zones of higher susceptibility to site amplification, landslides, etc. Participants with a background in architecture should look into the structural layout and, in connection with the other groups, propose solutions which cope with new standards of living (larger spaces, energy efficiency, acoustic specifications etc.).

The studies of tsunami and fire impacts are also included.

The LiMo project aims at bringing all the above expertise together in order to enhance the integrated solutions to mitigating the earthquake problem.

We want the outcome of LiMo to be a useful document for the city council of Lisbon and Civil Protection.

LiMo will be held from 20 to 23 September.

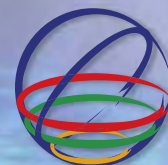
Looking forward to seeing you there!

More info: <https://sites.google.com/site/limo15wcee/home>



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CURIOSITIES: ACCOUNTS BY FOREIGNERS ON THE GREAT LISBON EARTHQUAKE OF NOVEMBER 1, 1755

PART 1: the first shocks

Anonymous letter

"Lisbon, Nov. 18th 1755"

'Twas in the morning of this fatal day, between the hours of nine and ten, that I was sitting in my apartment, just finishing a letter when the papers and table I was writing on began to tremble with a gentle motion which surprised me, as I could not perceive a breath of wind stirring. Whilst I was reflecting with myself what this could be owing to, but without having the least apprehension of the real cause, the whole house began to shake from the very foundation; which at first I imputed to the rattling of several coaches in the main street, that usually passed that way at this time, from Belem to the Palace. But on harkening more attentively I was soon undeceived as I found it was owing to a strange frightful kind of noise underground, resembling the hollow, distant rumbling of thunder. All this passed in less than a minute, and I must confess, I now began to be alarmed as it naturally occurred to me that this noise might possibly be the forerunner of an earthquake, as one I remembered which had happened about six or seven years ago, in the Island of Madeira, commenced in the same manner, tho' it did little or no damage.

Upon this I threw down the pen and started on my feet, remaining a moment in suspense, whether I should stay in the apartment or run into the street, as the danger in both places seemed equal and still flattering myself that this tremor might produce no other effects than such inconsiderable ones as had been felt in Madeira. But in a moment I was roused from this dream, being instantly stunned with a most horrid crash; as if every edifice had tumbled down at once.

The house I was in shook with such violence that the upper stories immediately fell and though my apartment, which was the first floor, did not then share the same fate, yet was everything thrown out of its place, in such sort that 'twas with no small difficulty I kept on my feet, and expected nothing less than to be soon crushed to death, as the walls continued rocking to and fro, in the frightfullest manner; opening in several places; large stones falling down on every side from the cracks, and the ends of most of the rafters starting out from the roof. To add to this terrifying scene the sky, in a moment, became so gloomy that I could now distinguish no particular object. 'Twas an Egyptian Darkness indeed such as might be felt; owing no doubt to the prodigious clouds of dust and lime, raised from so violent a concussion, and as some reported to sulphurous exhalations, but this I cannot affirm. However, 'tis certain I found myself almost choaked for near ten minutes.

As soon as the gloom began to disperse, and the violence of the shock seemed pretty much abated, the first object I perceived in the room was a woman sitting on the floor, with an infant in her arms, all covered with dust, pale and trembling. I asked her how she got here but her consternation was so great that she could give me no account of her escape. I suppose that when the tremor first began she ran out of her own house, and finding herself in such imminent danger from the stones that fell, retired into the door of mine, which was almost contiguous to hers, for shelter, and when the shock increased, which filled the door with dust and rubbish, ran up stairs into my apartment, which was then open. Be it as it will, this was no time for curiosity.

I remember the poor creature asked me in the utmost agony, if I did not think the world was at an end. At the same time she complained of being choaked, and begged for God's sake, I would procure her a little water to drink ...

Account to be followed in the next newsletter of the 15WCEE.



Ruins of Lisbon as appeared immediately after the Earthquake and Fire, on the 1st. Nov.br 1755.

Praça da Patriarcal (top) and Opera House (bottom).
Coloured engraving by J. Ph. Le Bas, London, 1757,
City Museum, Lisbon.

Excerpt from the book: The Lisbon Earthquake of 1755, British Accounts. Lisbon: The British Historical Society of Portugal. 1990. In The British Historical Society of Portugal – An account by an eyewitness of the Lisbon earthquake of November 1, 1755, Lisbon 1985, pp. 5-24.