



Japan Society of Civil Engineers
Yotsuya 1, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0004
<http://www.isce.or.jp/>

The January 13, 2001 Off the Coast of El Salvador Earthquake

Investigation of Damage to Civil Engineering Structures, Buildings and Dwellings



August 2001

Earthquake Engineering Committee, JSCE

PREFACE

El Salvador, one of the smallest and most crowded nations in Central America, extends about 240 kilometers westward from the Gulf of Fonseca to the border with Guatemala. This country was struck by two devastating earthquakes within a month. The first quake of Jan. 13, 2001, which was centered off El Salvador's southern coast, damaged and/or destroyed nearly 108,000 houses, and killed at least 944 people, including hundreds of residents buried in a huge amount of soil slipped down Las Colinas mountainside in the city of Neuva San Salvador (Santa Tecla). While authorities were trying to gauge the scope of the tragedy, the second quake of magnitude 6.6 hit several central provinces on Tuesday, Feb. 13. The second quake, killing at least 322 people and destroying more than 34,500 homes, was also substantially big in terms of damage.

On Jan. 19, Japan Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE) decided that it would dispatch an investigation team to El Salvador. Though JSCE covers a quite vast area of interest, the reconnaissance team, which was a small party of 8 professionals had little chance to cover up every specialty of civil engineering during their short stay (Feb. 1-6) in El Salvador. The preliminary strategy of JSCE team was thus to make a first reconnaissance laying stress on the landslide-inflicted damage to dwellings as well as the damage to civil infrastructures, and to discuss with Salvadorian specialists about possible future collaborations lucrative for both El Salvadoran and Japanese sides.

On February 1, the team was fully briefed on the entire scope of the earthquake-related damage by Mr. Jose Antonio Rodriguez, General Manager, Geothermal of El Salvador. Mr. Rodriguez, together with Mr. Salvador Handel, Geothermal of El Salvador, kindly made every arrangement for the team's reconnaissance trip, coordinating the schedules of specialists and officials in charge in such authorities as the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Housing and other organizations including PRIMSA, CIG, UCA etc.

With necessary pieces of information provided, JSCE team members could investigate efficiently the areas affected by the first earthquake of Jan. 13. The areas included (a) Las Colinas, Los Choros (Landslide group), (b) Rio Lempa, San Agustin, Berlin and Santiago de Maria (Strong-Ground-Motion and Civil-infrastructure groups). The landslide group surveyed 3D configurations of landslides (scars, slid soil masses and etc) using a laser rangefinder. They also took soil samples for ring-shear tests. The Strong-Ground-Motion and Civil-infrastructure groups measured microtremors to evaluate local site conditions and to find predominant periods of a variety of structures.

Mr. Saburo YUZAWA, Ambassador, Japanese Embassy in El Salvador, kindly took all the trouble of negotiating with ministers concerned over every possible convenience that the Salvadorian counterparts could provide, and the El Salvador military gave the team members a lift in a helicopter, allowing a wide coverage of extensive areas affected by the earthquake. Mr. Yuzawa also took the trouble of coordinating an assembly of Salvadorian specialists and officials in charge for discussing with the JSCE team members the findings that the JSCE team members obtained through their reconnaissance. The assembly was held at Radisson Hotel, San Salvador, on Feb.6.

This report outlines the findings obtained through the reconnaissance and geotechnical tests on the soil samples. Some descriptions in this report are not fully evidenced yet, and therefore, some comments are not yet the conclusions reached after a thorough discussions among the members. However, providing both Japan and Salvadorian specialists and persons in charge with a rough-an-ready overview would be important for taking measures for the disaster relief and precautions against possible secondary disasters.

All the members of the JSCE Reconnaissance Team would like to express hereby their sincere sympathy to those people affected by the two devastating earthquakes, and they wish to further

collaborate with Salvadorian specialists for possible countermeasures, e.g., reconstruction of damaged structures, retrofitting of existing structures and reducing landslide hazards.



Kazuo KONAGAI, Team Leader
Aug. 17, 2001



Briefing at Geothermal of El Salvador:
JSCE team members were fully briefed on the entire scope of the earthquake-related damage by Mr. Jose Antonio Rodriguez (left), General Manager, and Mr. Salvador Handel (right of the map), Geothermal of El Salvador. **(Feb. 1)**



Assembly of Salvadorian specialists:
JSCE team members and Salvadorian experts are discussing the cause of damage to dwellings, engineered and non-engineered structures and possible remedial measures. **(Feb. 6, Radisson Hotel)**

JSCE RECONNAISSANCE TEAM MEMBERS

<p>Kazuo KONAGAI, Dr. Eng. Team Leader, Professor Institute of Industrial Science, University of Tokyo (Large Deformation of Soils, Dynamic Soil-Structure Interaction) Tel: +81-3-5452-6142 E-mail: konagai@iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp</p>	<p>Nelson E. PULIDO, Dr. Sci. Researcher, Earthquake Disaster Mitigation Research Center, The Institute of Physical and Chemical Research (Seismology, Strong Ground Motions) Tel: +81-794-83-6637 E-mail: nelson@miki.riken.go.jp</p>
<p>Teturou YAMAMOTO, Dr. Eng. Professor, Dept. of Civil Engineering, Yamaguchi University (Landslides, Geotechnical Engineering) Tel: +81-836-85-9300 E-mail: yamamot@jim.civil.yamaguchi-u.ac.jp</p>	<p>Freddy Duran C., Ph. D. Research Associate, Dept. of Civil Engineering Systems, Kyoto University (Lifelines, Concrete Structures, Bridges) Tel: +81-75-753-4791 E-mail: duran@csd.kuciv.kyoto-u.ac.jp</p>
<p>Masakatsu MIYAJIMA, Dr. Eng. Professor, Dept. of Civil Engineering, Kanazawa University (Geotechnical Engineering, Lifelines) Tel: +81-76-234-4656 E-mail: miyajima@t.kanazawa-u.ac.jp</p>	<p>Jorgen JOHANSSONS, Mr. Ph. D student, Institute of Industrial Science, University of Tokyo (Large Deformation of Soils, Dynamic Soil-Structure Interaction) Tel: +81-3-5452-6098ext. 57250 E-mail: jorgen@iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp</p>
<p>Ryosuke UZUOKA, Dr. Eng. Research Engineer Earthquake Disaster Mitigation Research Center, The Institute of Physical and Chemical Research (Earthquake Geotechnical Engineering, Numerical Analysis) Tel: +81-794-83-6637 E-mail: uzuoka@miki.riken.go.jp</p>	<p>Paola MAYORCA, Miss Ph. D student, Institute of Industrial Science, University of Tokyo (Masonry and/or adobe structures, RC structures, wave propagations) Tel: +81-3545-26386 E-mail: paola@incede.iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp</p>

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE REPORT

Kyoji SASSA, Dr. Agr., Professor, Landslide Section, Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University, Uji, Kyoto 611, JAPAN.

Hiroshi FUKUOKA, Dr. Sci., Associate Professor, Landslide Section, Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University, Uji, Kyoto 611, JAPAN.

Masayuki KOHIYAMA, M., Eng., Research Associate, Institute of Industrial Science, University of Tokyo.

RECONNAISSANCE TRIP RECORD

	Leader	Landslide	Strong ground motion	Civil infrastructures, Lifelines, Adobe & masonry structures
Feb. 2	<i>Briefing at Geothermal, San Salvador</i> Jose Antonio Rodriguez, Director General, Salvador Handel, Javier Rivas and Jose Antonio Rivas			
	<i>Call at Japan Embassy</i> Saburo Yuzawa, Ambassador Tetsuo Iwasaki	<i>Call at Ministry of Environment</i> Ernesto Lopez Zepada	<i>Call at Ministry of Environment</i> Carlos Pullinger <i>Call at ASIA</i>	
Feb. 3	Survey: Las Colinas Refugee camp Mario Jvarez, Local government, Neuva San Salvador	Survey: from Helicopter	Survey: Las Colinas	
Feb. 4	Survey: San Vicente Berlin (Geo-thermal) Santiago de Maria San Agustin Railway bridge, Rio Lempa	Survey: Las Colinas Los Choros	Survey: (Strong ground motion, micro tremors, civil infrastructures, adobe houses) RC bridge at Rio Lempa, San Agustin, Berlin, Geo-thermal, Santiago de Maria	
Feb. 5	<i>Call at JICA</i> Atsushi Kamisawa Takahiro Shinchi Takayoshi J. Yamagiwa	<i>Call on Mr. Daniel Hernandez</i> CIG Survey: Las Colinas	UCA	<i>Call on Carlos Duque,</i> Vice ministry of Public Works, Survey: San Julian
	<i>Call at Ministry of Housing</i> Martha Eugenia Roldan, Yolanda Vicharra			<i>Call at Ministry of Housing</i> Martha Eugenia Roldan, Yolanda Vicharra
	Dinner with French Mission: Dr. Richard Guillande			
Feb. 6	<i>Call at PRISMA</i> Herman Rosa, Director Jose Roberto Duarte Saldana	<i>Call at CIG</i> Survey: Las Colinas		<i>Call at PRISMA</i> <i>Call at UCA</i> Patricia de Hazbun Ricardo Castellanos <i>Call at CIG</i> Jorge Alberto Rodriguez Deras
	<i>Meeting at Ilopango, Radisson</i> Ministry of Environment Ana Maria Majano, Minister of Environment, Scott Baxter (Seismologist), Ernesto Lopez Zepeda and Rina de Jarquin Ministry of Public Works Carlos Duque, Vice minister, Rene Gomez, executive director JICA Atsushi Kamisawa, Director, Tsukamoto, Takayoshi Jose Yamagiwa, and Shinchi Japan Embassy Saburo Yuzawa, Ambassador, and Tetsuo Iwasaki UCA Patricia de Hazbun PRISMA Herman Rosa			

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE

Kazuo KONAGAI

JSCE RECONNAISSANCE TEAM MEMBERS
CONTRIBUTORS TO THE REPORT
RECONNAISSANCE TRIP RECORD
TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. SOURCE CHARACTERISTICS AND STRONG GROUND MOTION:

Nelson E. PULIDO

1.1	TECTONIC SETTING OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE 2001 EL SALVADOR EARTHQUAKES	1
	* <i>Tectonic setting of Central America and Recent Historical Earthquakes</i>	1
	* <i>The January 13 mainshock</i>	3
	* <i>The February 13 aftershock</i>	4
1.2	STRONG GROUND MOTION CHARACTERISTICS	6
	* <i>El Salvador seismic and strong motion networks</i>	6
	* <i>Observed Ground motion distribution from the January 13 earthquake</i>	7
1.3	BROADBAND STRONG GROUND MOTION SIMULATION OF THE JANUARY 13 EARTHQUAKE	10
	* <i>Ground Motion Estimation Methodology</i>	10
	* <i>High Frequency Ground Motion</i>	11
	* <i>Strong ground motion simulation of the January 13/2001 El Salvador earthquake</i>	12
1.4	DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIVE REMARKS	17
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	17
	REFERENCES	18

2. LANDSLIDES:

Tetsuro YAMAMOTO, Ryosuke UZUOKA, Jorgen JOHANSSON, Kazuo KONAGAI
Kyoji SASSA, Hiroshi FUKUOKA, and Paola MAYORCA
(Edited by Kazuo KONAGAI and Ryosuke UZUOKA)

2.1	INTRODUCTION	19
2.2	GEOLOGY	19
2.3	LANDSLIDES DISTRIBUTION	20
2.4	AERIAL VIEWS OF LANDSLIDES	23
2.5	LAS COLINAS LANDSLIDE	25
	* <i>General</i>	25
	* <i>3D Configuration of the slope</i>	26
	* <i>Detailed features of the slope</i>	29
	* <i>Soil tests</i>	35
	* <i>Microtremor measurement</i>	45
	* <i>Summary of Las Colinas Landslide</i>	46
2.6	OTHER LANDSLIDES	49
	* <i>POINT A: Slope failures along El Balsamo ridge, Las Colinas</i>	50
	* <i>POINTS B, C and D: Slope failures at Los Chorros</i>	52
	* <i>Slope failures at Nuevo Cuscatlan</i>	52
	* <i>Slope failures at San Vicente</i>	53
2.7	SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS	54
	REFERENCES	55

3. BUILDINGS AND DWELLINGS:

Paola MAYORCA

3.1	INTRODUCTION	57
3.2	DEVELOPMENT OF SEISMIC DESIGN CODE	61
3.3	DAMAGE DISTRIBUTION	63
	* <i>Damage Evaluation Committee</i>	65
3.4	DAMAGE TO THE VISITED TOWNS	67
	* <i>San Agustin</i>	67
	* <i>Berlin</i>	73
	* <i>Santiago de Maria</i>	75
	* <i>San Julian</i>	76
	* <i>Nueva San Salvador</i>	78
	* <i>San Salvador</i>	80
3.5	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	80
	REFERENCES	81

4. LIFELINES AND CRITICAL FACILITIES:

Freddy DURAN C. and Masakatsu MIYAJIMA
(Edited by Kazuo KONAGAI and Jorgen JOHANSSON)

4.1	INTRODUCTION	83
4.2	ELECTRICITY	83
	* <i>Introduction</i>	83
	* <i>Substations</i>	84
	* <i>Damage to transmission lines</i>	86
	* <i>Summary and recommendations</i>	88
4.3	WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM	89
	* <i>Overview</i>	89
	* <i>Damage to tanks</i>	90
	* <i>Damage to water treatment plants</i>	92
	* <i>Summary and recommendations</i>	93
4.4	TRANSPORTATION	93
	* <i>Damage to Main Routes</i>	93
	* <i>Bridges</i>	94
	* <i>Local roads</i>	96
	* <i>Summary and recommendations</i>	96
4.5	TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEMS	96
4.6	CRITICAL FACILITIES	97
	* <i>Airport</i>	97
	* <i>Ports and harbors</i>	99
	* <i>Hospitals</i>	99

5. DAMAGED AREA ESTIMATION BASED ON DMSP/OLS NIGHTTIME IMAGERY AND AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE:

Masayuki KOHIYAMA and Ryosuke UZUOKA

5.1 INTRODUCTION	101
5.2 DAMAGED AREA ESTIMATION BASED ON DMSP/OLS NIGHTTIME IMAGERY	101
5.3 DMSP/OLS IMAGERY	101
5.4 ESTIMATION METHOD	102
5.5 ESTIMATION RESULTS	103
5.6 AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE	108
5.7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	110
REFERENCES	110

6. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS 111

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 112



[to the next page](#)