GSSE Excursion to Potsdam

On 7th and 8th June 2007, the International students of NHMSE, AMMS and PhD programs at Bauhaus University, Weimar visited GeoForschungsZentrum (GFZ) in Potsdam, the capital city of the federal state of Brandenburg in Germany. Potsdam is situated on the Havel River, southwest of Berlin. Today the city consists of 75% green area, with just 25% covered with buildings or streets. There are about 20 lakes and rivers in Potsdam. On the morning of 7th June, the students start their journey towards Potsdam by a bus and reached there at 11 o'clock. Dr. Gottfried Grünthal received the students at GFZ Potsdam.

The evening of the day was spent at the beautiful famous palace, the Sanssouci. Sanssouci is the former summer palace of Frederick the Great, King of Prussia at Potsdam, designed by Georg Wenzeslaus between 1745 and 1747 to fulfill Frederick's need for a private residence.

The second day was reserved for the lectures which were organized by GFZ for the students from Bauhaus University Weimar and University of Stuttgart. The series of lectures were started by Mr. Andreas Hübner, who gave a short overview about the research activities going on in the GFZ.

earthquake hazard assessment and risk maps generation was given by Dr. Gottfried Grünthal. In the end the findings of the field trip to Indonesia in May 2006 by the German Task force for earthquakes was presented. In general the lectures were an introduction to different research areas at GFZ. It was a condense volume of information but the coffee breaks and lunch helped in refreshing the students and charging their energy. The trip started with a nice sunny morning and ended with a lovely warm evening. The trip was found to be full of information with the acquaintance of scientists and researchers of GFZ.

Sanssouci Palace, Potsdam

Einstein Tower, Potsdam

After a short introduction, a guided tour of the Telegrafenberg was made by Mr. Andereas Küppers. At Telegrafenberg there is an Albert Einstein Science Park. The Einstein Tower built in the Albert Einstein Science Park is an astrophysical observatory.

In the afternoon, the students were divided into two groups. The first group of NHMSE students got a hand on training on the seismic catalogue completeness-an important step for seismic hazard assessment. While the second group enjoyed a free time in exploring Potsdam.

A presentation about modeling and measuring of tectonic stresses was found interesting by the students. A demonstration about the modeling of earthquake stresses was made in the sand box laboratory. After a short coffee break, presentations about 'gravity field of the earth', 'investigation of near surface hydrological processes with geophysical methods' and 'use of time variable gravity fields for global hydrological modeling' were given.

In the afternoon, a study on flood risk assessment was presented. A short overview on the probabilistic

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