

EXCURSION TO POTSDAM AND BERLIN

(18th to 20th November 2009)

The students of Masters Course, Natural Hazard Mitigation in Structural Engineering (NHMSE) from Bauhaus-University, Weimar, visited GeoforschungsZentrum (GFZ) Potsdam from November 18th to 19th, 2009.

On November 18th, 2009, the trip began at 8.00 am from Weimar and reached GFZ-Potsdam at around 12.30pm. After lunch and fresh up, there was an introductory meeting with Mr. Andreas Kuppens and highlighted the ongoing research project being carried out at GFZ. A short tour to the Telegrafenberg was made and students were informed about its historical values and importance, like Einstein Tower (an Astrophysical Observatory). In the evening Dr Gottfried Grunthal gave a lecture on earthquake hazard and risk. He explained the major contributions of GFZ in the field of seismology. A presentation was given by Dr. Vorogushin about flood hazard and risk. The day ended with a short question and answer session.



Einstein Tower, Potsdam



GeoforschungsZentrum (GFZ), Potsdam

The second day was reserved for various presentations by different researchers working in the field of earthquake, tsunami & early warning system, GIS and remote sensing. Dr. Sobiesiak gave a presentation about the German TaskForce for earthquakes (GTFE) including an interdisciplinary approach for monitoring earthquake phenomena. Dr. Parolai gave an overview of the GFZ activities focusing on the 6th April 2009 L'Aquila earthquake. After a short coffee break, Dr. Parolai discussed real time monitoring of structures by the SOSEWIN system. Mr. Tariq Maqsood presented the outcomes of the field missions from Engineering Group of German TaskForce for earthquakes (GTFE) to Pakistan.

In the afternoon, presentations about tsunami hazard and early warning were given. The topics were: probabilistic tsunami hazard assessment in the Mediterranean, remote sensing and GIS contribution to the detection areas prone to tsunami hazard, and sensor integration and the role of the service bus

concept. The last session of the day was a general discussion among Professors and students of NHMSE. The students shared their views and asked questions about different topics. Dr. Jochen Schwarz gave some concluding remarks to end the session.

In general the lectures were an introduction to different research areas at GFZ and the German TaskForce for earthquakes (GTFE). The lectures also presented an overview of the ongoing research in the field of natural hazards, risks and early warning. The students found that trip to very informative and interesting.

The trip was accompanied with a lot of recreational opportunities. A short guided tour to Sansouci Palace was arranged on the 20th November 2009 where the students were informed about its historical aspects. On the same day, the students were driven to Berlin where they enjoyed visiting landmarks of the German Capital like the Reichstag (The Federal German Parliament Building), Brandenburg Gate and Alexanderplatz. The visit to Olympic stadium was also very interesting for the students. The guide explained the students about the history of Berlin and the importance of all the landmarks during the visit.



Sansouci Palace, Potsdam



Olympic Stadium, Berlin

Thanks to Dr. Schwarz who organized this informative event for the students of NHMSE and give an opportunity to visit the beautiful German Capital, Berlin, on the next day of the trip. Special Thanks to our host Dr. Gotfried Grunthal who provided facilitation during the workshop. The students are grateful to the faculty of Civil Engineering at Bauhaus University Weimar for providing financial aid for organizing such kind of educational and informative workshop.

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