

FOREWORD

Welcome to the 12th AEES Conference. The last time the conference was hosted in Melbourne was when the AEES and NZSEE jointly organised the Pacific Conference on Earthquake Engineering back in 1995. The organising committee has great pleasure in welcoming you to the conference. The programme is topical with some thirty presentations on a wide range of subjects related to the broad conference theme of 'Earthquake risk mitigation' including: a historical perspective on Australian seismicity, an update on the latest code developments, critical infrastructure protection, dam safety, earthquake risk developments, earthquake risk insurance, urban search and rescue and new techniques for quickly assessing the seismic performance of buildings in low seismic regions which accounts for both the force and the displacement capacity. We have also introduced a dedicated session for poster presentations which will enable speakers to briefly overview their project to the whole audience followed by the opportunity for a more detailed discussion on a one to one basis for those interested in a particular specialty.

We hope you find the conference program stimulating and rewarding and importantly, allows you the opportunity to renew and make new contacts. One of the biggest challenges we have as a learned society is to educate the community on the need to address earthquake design, mitigation and emergency response in regions of low to moderate seismicity such as Australia. The old adage "Human memory is fortunately and unfortunately shorter than the return period of most disasters" is still very apt in this country.

Many thanks to Barbara Butler for her continued excellent work in organising the conference and conference proceedings and to our sponsors who enable these events to continue at a significantly improved standard.

John Wilson
on behalf of the Conference Organising Committee

1992	Canberra
1993	Melbourne
1994	Sydney
1995	Melbourne - PCEE '95
1996	Adelaide
1997	Brisbane
1998	Perth
1999	Sydney
2000	Hobart
2001	Canberra
2002	Adelaide
2003	Melbourne

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword

iv

KEYNOTE SPEAKER – MICHAEL SANDIFORD

Paper No.

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GEOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS ON ACTIVE SEISMICITY IN SOUTHEAST AUSTRALIA

Sandiford, M., Leonard, M. and Coblenz, D.



Securing critical infrastructure YATES, A.	2
Seismicity in the Southwest of Western Australia * SINADINOVSKI, C. AND ROBINSON, D.	3
Seismic ground motion prediction and RC frame structure failure probability estimation in low seismic Singapore * HAO, H. AND KIRKE, A.	4
Near-source earthquake ground motion simulation and a preliminary analysis of their effects on structural pounding responses * HAO, H. AND CHOUW, N.	5
Experimental and numerical testing techniques to model unreinforced masonry * HEATH, D., GAD, E., WILSON, J. AND SINADINOVSKI, C.	6
A relative seismic vulnerability analyses of Hervey Bay City, Queensland * TURNBULL, M. AND FICHERA, J.	7
Risks from the response of non-structural components to seismic loads in buildings * AL ABADI, H., LAM, N., GAD, E., AND CHANDLER, A.M.	8
Steel plated seismic retrofit for RC columns in soft-storey frames * GRIFFITH, M., WU, Y. AND OEHLERS, D.	9
Comparative study of average response spectra from Australian and New Zealand Earthquakes * ALLEN, T., GIBSON, G. AND CULL, J.	10
Estimation of non-structural damage in residential light framed walls * CORVETTI, J., GAD, E., DEISS, M. AND WILSON, J.	11
Comparison of shear-velocities measured from microtremor array studies and SCPT data acquired for earthquake site hazard classification in the northern suburbs of Perth W.A. * ASTEN, M. AND DHU, T.	12
Earthquakes in dissimilar tectonic regimes - comparison study of two shallow events with similar magnitude MCCUE, K.F., AND SINADINOVSKI, C.	13

Lessons from alternative array design used for high frequency microtremor array studies *	14
ASTEN, M.	
A displacement based approach to the analysis for seismically induced torsion in buildings *	15
LUMANTARNA, E., LAM, N. AND WILSON, J.	
The effect of rock motions on soil amplification factors for Australian conditions *	16
VENKATESAN, S., DHU, T., LAM, N. AND WILSON, J.	
The seismic assessment of soft-storey buildings in Melbourne *	17
RODSIN, K., LAM, N., WILSON, J. AND GOLDSWORTHY, H.	
The vital role of engineers in Urban Search and Rescue	18
BRUNSDON, D.	
Australian dam seismic practices – an update	19
HIMSLEY, N.	
Earthquake hazard in Australia using a multi-tiered source model	20
BROWN, A.P., AND GIBSON, G.	
Bond and anchorage of cogged bar within concrete-filled CHS column-I beam joint *	21
YAO, J., GOLDSWORTHY, H. AND GAD, E.	
Seismic microzonation of the Greater Hobart area, Tasmania	22
ANDREWS, D. AND ROACH, M.	
Improved vulnerability models for regional earthquake risk assessment	23
BRZEZNIAK, N., MOORE, C., LYNCH, T., ROLLISON, C. AND GRIFFITH, M.	
A spatial regolith database for Australian cities – how could it aid earthquake design?	24
EDWARDS, M., DHU, T., JONES, A. AND JONES, T.	
Earthquake risk in Australia and insurance	25
WALKER, G.	
Index of Authors	viii

*Papers marked * were, in accordance with DETYA requirements, subjected to an independent critical review process by two experts from the field in which the material was written.*