SEISMIC ACADEMY

FROM THE DESK OF ADVISORY BOARD

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Earthquakes cause devastation at places where the community is not adequately prepared. Particularly, the loss of life because of earthquake-induced damages to the built infrastructure is a matter of grave concern. One possible way through which lives could be saved during earthquakes is by giving an early warning so that people may find safe places to rescue - e.g., go to open ground or stay in tents temporarily - but evacuate the seismically vulnerable massive buildings that they stay in otherwise.

However, it is argued that time of occurrence of tectonic earthquakes is unpredictable. Though some research work is carried out by developing early warning system (EWS) for sending alerts or distress signals, the state-of-the-art remains at giving the warning hardly few seconds to a minute or two in advance. Albeit, considerable research efforts should have been geared towards developing sophisticated EWS so that the time to give warning signal could be increased. However, deterrent in pursuing this domain of research confidently is attributed to the fear of giving false signal(s), or more seriously, for not being able to give a warning signal at all before a major earthquake happens.

Nevertheless, in true scientific spirit, researchers should be encouraged to work on developing EWS to be able to give signals much in advance to the occurrence of an earthquake. Thereby, the common belief of unpredictability of occurrence of earthquakes can be shattered, and innovative EWS could be developed for the benefit of the civilization. Seismic Academy is advised to address this matter effectively and promote research activities in development of advanced earthquake early warning systems, which can be linked with smartphones so that eventually we are able to attain earthquake-safe society.

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