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National Science Foundation Site Team Visits MCEER

On June 8-9, 2000, MCEER hosted its third annual site visit organized by the National Science Foundation's Division of Engineering Education and Centers. Dr. Joy Pauschke, NSF Program Officer, coordinated the site team to review MCEER's third year activities and plans for Year 4.

■ *MCEER participants and invited guests enjoyed a barbeque the evening before the site visit*

The review began Thursday morning, with introductions and an overview of MCEER's program by George Lee, Director, and Michel Bruneau, Deputy Director. Stephanie Chang presented a highlight of MCEER's research program, by describing an integrated approach to earthquake loss estimation for mitigation, response and recovery. This was followed by descriptions of each of MCEER's research programs. Presenters were:

- Masanobu Shinozuka, University of Southern California, seismic evaluation and retrofit of lifeline networks
- Thomas O'Rourke, Cornell University, water supply networks
- Michel Bruneau, MCEER, seismic retrofit of hospitals
- Kathleen Tierney, Disaster Research Center, University of Delaware, earthquake response and recovery
- Ron Eguchi, ImageCat, Inc., using advanced technology to conduct earthquake reconnaissance following the Marmara earthquake
- Andrei Reinhorn, University at Buffalo, user networks for seismic assessment and retrofit of critical facilities
- Andrea Dargush, MCEER, education and educational outreach

Seven of the Center's industry partners also participated in the site review. They included:

- Anna Day, representing Ellis Stanley, director of the City of Los Angeles Emergency Management
- Mohammed Ettouney, Weidlinger Associates, Inc., consulting engineers
- Ali Karakaplan, LARSA, Inc., structural analysis software developer
- Mary Kerns, Enidine, Inc., seismic damping systems manufacturer
- LeVal Lund, lifelines consultant
- Anoop Mokha, Earthquake Protection Systems, Inc., seismic isolation systems manufacturer
- Douglas Taylor, Taylor Devices, Inc., seismic damping systems manufacturer

Following an overview of MCEER's partners program by Michel Bruneau and Donald Goralski, Senior Program Officer, Industry/User Partnerships, LeVal Lund and Anoop Mokha gave brief presentations on their involvement with MCEER research. LeVal Lund discussed the need to improve performance of pipeline slip joints during earthquakes. He provides assistance to a project involving fiber reinforced composite wrappings for water pipelines headed by Thomas O'Rourke, Cornell University

Anoop Mokha discussed his long-time involvement with MCEER research and the value of the Center's seismic isolation studies that helped to validate the use of the friction pendulum system (FPS). Dr. Mokha initially worked with the technology as a graduate student under Michael Constantinou at the University at Buffalo. Later, he championed the use of FPS, as a consultant for Skidmore Owings and Merrill's San Francisco, California office. Today he serves as vice president of marketing for Earthquake Protection Systems, Inc., manufacturer of the FPS.

Many of MCEER's students contributed posters for discussion and display, which featured current research work. They were on hand to discuss their projects with the site team members. Students also participated in the first formal meeting of the Student Leadership Council (SLC), held the evening before the site visit *(see Student Leadership Council article)*. Finally, MCEER staff members Jane Stoyle and Laura Taddeo hosted a display of the Center's Information Service and Publications capabilities and products. ❖

■ *Yingjuan Wang of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute explains her research to NSF's Clifford Astill during the student poster session*