Lifeline Earthquake Engineering Experts Gather in Seattle

National Conference Focuses on Protection of Transportation, Utilities and Other Lifelines

The world's most prominent experts on earthquake impacts on utilities, highways, bridges, ports, and other lifeline facilities convened in Seattle, Washington, August 12-14, 1999, for the *5th U.S. Conference on Lifeline Earthquake Engineering*. Sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) Technical Council on Lifeline Earthquake Engineering (TCLEE), the 2½-day program featured more than 120

William Elliot (left), co-editor of the conference proceedings, is shown with conference co-chairs Don Ballantyne and Tom O'Rourke.

presentations on topics including earthquake effects on electrical power systems, pipelines, ports, transportation networks, water, and wastewater facilities. More than 300 people attended.

Held once every four years, the conference discussed the latest research, practice, investigation, and public policy in lifeline earthquake engineering. The theme was "Optimizing Post-Earthquake Lifeline System Reliability."

Several keynote presentations opened the program, placing emphasis on earthquake hazard assessment and lifeline performance in the central Puget Sound area. Anshel Schiff, 1999 recipient of ASCE's prestigious C. Martin Duke Award, presented, "TCLEE – Twenty-Five Years and a Turning Point." Schiff was presented with the award at the conference banquet.

Conference highlights included a special session on HAZUS (FEMA/NIBS loss estimation software) and a presentation on the newly established American Lifeline Alliance. Lloyd Cluff, Robert V. Whitman and Hiroyoki Kameda addressed critical issues in lifeline earthquake engineering during a plenary session and William J. Hall offered a banquet presentation on the "History, Accomplishments and Future of ASCE-TCLEE."

The conference featured twenty technical sessions and additional poster sessions. Seven sessions on transportation issues focused attention on bridge hazards, analysis and retrofit. Five sessions examined pipeline performance and reliability. Earthquake seismic risk, socioeconomic issues and multi-hazard risk assessment were also explored. A complete conference program listing all

Anshel Schiff accepted the 1999 ASCE C. Martin Duke Award for his contributions to lifeline earthquake engineering at the conference banquet.

presentations and speakers is available in PDF format at http://www.asce.org/conferences/le99.

The conference also hosted an exposition of exhibitors of lifeline earthquake engineering products and services. It concluded with a boat tour of Seattle's Elliott Bay, taking in key sites and structures of interest to lifelines professionals.

The *5th U.S. Conference on Lifeline Earthquake Engineering* was organized for ASCE by MCEER. Proceedings are available from ASCE for $110.00 list and $82.50 for ASCE members at ASCE Book Orders, P.O. Box 79404, Baltimore, MD 21279-0404. Orders are also being accepted by phone: (800) 548-ASCE (2723), fax: (703) 295-6211, email: marketing@asce.org, or online at www.pubs.asce.org. ❖

The Conference concluded with a boat tour of Seattle's Elliot Bay, which provided this view of the skyline and port of Seattle.