

MCEER Investigator Testifies at Congressional Hearing

Thomas D. O'Rourke, Thomas R. Briggs Professor of Engineering at Cornell University, MCEER research committee member and long-time Center investigator, testified before the Subcommittee on Basic Research of the House of Representatives Committee on Science on behalf of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI). The hearing on earthquake preparations focused on lessons learned following the Turkey, Taiwan and Mexico City Earthquakes and was held on October 20, 1999. The committee heard testimony on these recent earthquakes, and how to better prepare the nation for the effects of these natural disasters. Of particular concern were the lessons learned from scientific data on these earthquakes and how to coordinate and share information on earthquakes. Other speakers included Waverly Person, Director, U.S. Geological Survey National Earthquake Information Center; Terry Wallace, President of the Seismological Society of America and Professor of Geosciences, University of Arizona; and Michael Tamillow, Battalion Chief of the Fairfax County Virginia Fire and Rescue Service, and a member of the county's internationally known Urban Search and Rescue task force.

Professor O'Rourke prepared his testimony in coordination with members of the Board of Directors of EERI. He visited the earthquake-affected regions of Turkey and Taiwan shortly after the disasters occurred, and his comments were drawn from personal experience and observations. His testimony can be viewed in its entirety on our web site at <http://mceer.buffalo.edu>. ❖



Tom O'Rourke (right) is shown with Representative Nick Smith, R-Michigan, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Basic Research of the House Committee on Science. Tom testified before the committee on lessons learned from the Turkey, Taiwan and Mexico City earthquakes.