

Survey on the Areas Affected by the Earthquake with Epicenter in Southeastern Turkey

Date : April 12 (Wednesday) - April 20 (Thursday), 2023

On February 6, 2023, there was a major earthquake in the areas straddling southeastern Turkey and Syria. In fact, there was also a severe earthquake in 2011 in the vicinity of Lake Van, which is located to the east of the affected area. After the Van earthquake, myself, two Kobe City officials, one former Kobe City official, and one structural researcher from E-Defense conducted a field survey of the damage with then Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Design Ahmet Eyüce and Professor Murat Dündar of Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul. After the survey, we held a public symposium in Istanbul. Mukogawa Women's University signed an exchange agreement with Bahçeşehir University in 2008, and the schools of architecture at both universities have conducted short-term exchange programs almost every year, as well as jointly hosting the International Conference on Archi-Cultural Interactions through the Silk Road.

Again, immediately after the earthquake, we were in contact with Professor Murat Dündar, the current Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Design at Bahçeşehir University, who provided us with comparative photos of historical and cultural buildings and townscapes before and after the earthquake, as well as topographical maps of the entire affected area. Subsequently, at the invitation of Bahçeşehir University, we decided to conduct a survey of the affected areas together with the City of Kobe.

On April 12, three professors from the School of Architecture at Mukogawa Women's University and two Kobe City officials left for Turkey to survey earthquake disasters in southeastern Turkey. On the 11th, the day before their departure, a press conference was held in Kobe City. The three members from Mukogawa Women's University were Professor Yanagisawa, head of the architecture department and a professor of architectural design, Professor Tagawa, a professor of earthquake-resistant engineering, and Professor Tosu, a professor of structural design, while the two members from Kobe City were Executive Director Tanaka of the Construction and Housing Bureau and Director Nose of the Crisis Management Office. Professor Murat Dündar planned the survey cities and itinerary, and guided them throughout the entire tour.

With the full support of Bahçeşehir University, the group flew to the affected areas early in the morning of the day after their arrival in Istanbul, conducted surveys in Kahramanmaraş, Hatay, and other areas that were most severely damaged, and after returning to Istanbul, held a press conference and exchanged opinions with researchers from Bahçeşehir University. The five returned to Japan on April 20, and held a debriefing session at the West Hall of Mukogawa Women's University Koshien Hall on May 1, inviting TV stations and newspapers.

The three reporters were from Mukogawa Women's University and two from Kobe City. And Prof. Murat Dündar participated online. The entire cost of the research in Turkey was supported by Bahçeşehir University. Travel expenses for all participants from Mukogawa Women's University were supported by Hyogo Prefecture.

Prof. Yanagisawa reported on the overall damage, Prof. Tagawa on the magnitude and characteristics of the earthquake and the damage, Prof. Tosu on the damage caused by the form of buildings and their relationship with adjacent buildings from a structural design perspective, and Mr. Tanaka and Mr. Nose of Kobe City on the importance of building administration in dealing with earthquake damage and their visits to the mayors in the affected areas. Dean Murat reported on the problems of the inspection system for architectural design and renovation work in Turkey, and on the plan to open a disaster prevention center at Bahçeşehir University

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