

A press conference was held at Koshien Hall to report on the return from the "Survey on the Areas Affected by the Earthquake with Epicenter in Southeastern Turkey. "

Date : May 1 (Monday), 2023

Three professors from the School of Architecture and two Kobe City officials, who conducted a survey of the areas affected by the Turkey-Syria earthquake from April 12th to 20th, held a press conference on May 1st at Koshien Kaikan on Mukogawa Women's University's Kamikoshien Campus to report the preliminary results of their survey, with students and graduate students from the School of Architecture also in attendance.

The press conference was held by Kazuhiko Yanagisawa, professor and chair of the Department of Architecture, Shigeki Torisu, and Hiroyuki Tagawa of the Faculty of Architecture, along with Yukio Tanaka, director of the Building Guidance Department of the Kobe City Building and Housing Bureau, and Masayoshi Nose, section chief of the Risk Management Office. In addition, Prof. Mulatu, Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Design at Bahçeşehir University, who accompanied the group on site, participated online.

The group entered Adana Province from Istanbul and proceeded to conduct surveys in Chukurova District, Adana Province; Onikishvat District, Kahramanmaraş District; Antakya District, Hatay District; Samandar District; Iskenderun District; Payas District, and others.

At the press conference, he explained what he had examined based on his expertise while showing photos and videos of the current situation in each city.

Professor Yanagisawa commented on Antakya, which suffered the most damage, "The entire town has been destroyed. Many mosques and churches, which are historical buildings, were also damaged. On the other hand, there were hotels of modern architecture that were not damaged at all." Professor Tagawa showed seismic tremors in three areas and said, "Even in Kahramanmaraş, which is close to the epicenter, the measured seismic intensity was about 5.0. Even though the intensity was smaller than that of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, there was significant damage, with exterior walls collapsing as if pushed out and housing complexes suffering pancake crashes. This may be due in part to structural aspects, such as the use of inappropriate reinforcing bars in the pillars," he explained. Professor Torisu said, "The adjacent buildings were in close contact with each other with their walls touching, and this is thought to be the cause of the chessboard collapse. The fact that many piloti-style buildings had stores on the ground floor also contributed to the damage. He suggested that although earthquake resistance standards are comparable to those in Japan, Europe, and the U.S., the buildings may not have been built according to the standards because of unreasonable additions and renovations, and the fact that major collapses actually occurred."

Professor Yanagisawa then commented, "This time, we are at the stage where we have been able to identify a few structural problems. We need to improve the temporary housing, and from the viewpoint of cultural asset preservation and safety, we need to make the minarets and other structures more earthquake resistant," he said.

Professor Murat stated that "the fact that not only old buildings but also new mid-rise and high-rise buildings collapsed is also an ethical problem in that standards are not being properly followed," and expressed his enthusiasm for the disaster prevention center planned to be established at Bakhceshir University.

The City of Kobe reported on the exchange of opinions with the affected municipalities. The city of Kobe reported on its exchange of opinions with the affected municipalities. "If Turkey requests, we would like to share with them our knowledge of earthquake retrofitting, seismic isolation technology, and Kobe City's efforts in disaster education and public awareness in elementary and junior high

schools in cooperation with Mukogawa Women's University," the report said, adding that the city would provide cooperation and support as requested by each local government and Bakhceshir University.

Prior to this report, the delegation paid a courtesy visit to Kobe City Mayor Kizo Hisamoto on April 26 and reported on the contents of the survey.

(<https://info.mukogawa-u.ac.jp/publicity/newsdetail?id=4365>)



Professor Yanagisawa presenting the report



Participants of the press conference



View of the press conference venue