

Preface

Mr. Chairmen, Director Shieh of DPRC, NCKU. and Dr. Koizumi of GSJ, AIST. Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

It's a great honor to be invited to this international conference with so many prestigious audience and well-known experts in the field of Seismology.

About four years ago, the devastating 921(September twenty-first) earthquake, the largest earthquake in the history of Taiwan, shattered the whole island. The major shock claimed over two thousand lives, toppling buildings and trapping hundreds of victims in the wreckage. Financial loss from the aftermath was estimated over ten billions NT dollars.

This tragic earthquake urged people in Taiwan in full resolution to find a better way to mitigate seismic hazards. As a result, a five-year national research program funded by the National Science Council, entitled "Program on Earthquake and Active Fault Research" has been under way. Following the instructions from the program committee, the Water Resources Agency is also in charge of research on "The study of Groundwater Anomalies Associated with Earthquakes" Six main research items had been successfully achieved over the past three years, and are proposed to be incorporated to the master program. The six key items are as follows: First, field investigation of potential sites for monitoring changes of groundwater; second, establishment of the monitoring system; third, research in data acquisition, transportation and maintenance of the monitoring system; fourth, research in data analysis and interpretation; fifth, development of the data base for groundwater level and composition changes, and last but not least, theoretical study in ground water level and ground water composition changes associated with earthquakes /seismic activities.

On September 24th, 2002, the first workshop in Tsukuba, Japan was launched with the aim to promote multilateral research cooperation among Taiwan, Japan and the United States. We would also like to share our experience from our research with international scientists and

engineers in the field. In order to contribute to natural hazard mitigation, we will—with never ceasing effort--- provide quality monitoring and study the mechanism of groundwater changes associated with earthquake.

The city of Tainan was once the military, political, cultural and commercial center of Taiwan in ancient days. This remarkable ancient town enjoys a mild climate all year round, with heritages of beautiful historic sites and variety of delicious exotic food as tourist attractions. I strongly recommend everyone spend some quality time experiencing the beautiful scenery and delicious food after the conference.

Finally, thank you so much for the opportunity to be here today. I wish the conference great success and everyone wonderful time during your stay in Taiwan.

Thank you.

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Shen-Hsien Chen