

Introduction of Awardees

Prof. Philip Li-Fan Liu: Vice President (Research and Technology) and Distinguished Professor, National University of Singapore; Class of 1912 Professor in Engineering, Emeritus, Cornell University, USA



Prof. Philip Li-Fan Liu, who coordinated National Science Foundation (USA) sponsored tsunami research programs that involved several institutions in 1990s and 2000s, made significant contributions in fundamental understanding of tsunami generation, propagation and coastal effects. His numerical model, COMCOT, has been employed in many countries for developing tsunami warning system and inundation maps, and assessing tsunami damage. He has also taken leadership role in organizing several post-tsunami field studies, including the 1992 Flores Island (Indonesia) tsunami and the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. In recent years, he has been promoting tsunami research by organizing annual South China Sea Tsunami Workshops, providing a forum for researchers in the South China Sea region to exchange knowledge and experience, and to develop the tsunami hazard mitigation program. In 2015 he was elected as a Member of National Academy of Engineering (USA) for “coastal engineering research, education, computer modeling, and leadership for tsunami and wave damage”.

Prof. Julio Kuroiwa: Professor Emeritus National University of Engineering (UNI) Lima – Peru, and Director and General Manager of Disaster Risk Reduction Peru International SAC, Republic of Peru



Prof. Kuroiwa, as a consultant of the UN and governments, developed plans to reduce tsunami disasters in Tumaco, Colombia; Salinas, Ecuador; and the southwest coast of Peru. Buildings were protected from tsunami forces and foundation erosion. The Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM) proposed by him became Peru’s National Policy No. 32 in 2010, and now all engineering projects are required to have the DRRM component. From 2012 to date he has participated as a consultant in a number of important projects for reducing tsunami impacts on buildings, infrastructures, and cities, such as the Terminal Station of Lima - Callao Subway No. 2 and the tunnel under the new runway of Lima International Airport located near the seashore. He received the UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Prevention for “Active efforts in reducing disaster risk in their communities and advocates for disaster risk reduction.”

Kuroshio Town (Kochi prefecture), Japan



Kuroshio town is estimated to be possibly hit by a 34.4-meter-height tsunami that is the maximum height in Japan as the aftermath of Nankai megathrust earthquakes. The town has launched a slogan “confronting the Nankai megathrust earthquake and forming the Japan’s best town that goes out with earthquakes and tsunamis.” Under the slogan, detailed tsunami disaster prevention activities, such as the construction of evacuation towers and the preparation of evacuation plans for each household, improved its inhabitants’ awareness of disaster preparedness. The town played a frontrunner in disaster prevention strategy for local administrations in Japan. A canning plant company as a semi-public joint venture company which makes products from local foods in consideration of both promoting disaster prevention and community revitalization should be specially mentioned. In addition, the town delivered lectures to propagate and educate disaster prevention both domestically and internationally, and hosted High School Students Summit on World Tsunami Awareness Day in Kuroshio with Kochi Prefectural Government.