

25 Oct. 2023

Announcement of the Hamaguchi Award Laureates Congratulations to the Three Awardees 2023!

The International Promotion Committee for Tsunami/Coastal Disaster Resilience Technology is pleased to announce the following three awardees 2023 of the Hamaguchi Award (Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Award).

Dr. ISOBE Masahiko, Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo/ Professor Emeritus, Kochi University of Technology, Japan

Dr. Laura S.L. Kong, Director of International Tsunami Information Centre, United States of America

Research Center for Integrated Disaster Risk Management (CIGIDEN), Republic of Chile

[Attached Documents]

- Introduction of Awardees 2023 (Attachment 1)
- Introduction of Awardees 2016-2022 (Attachment 2)

Hamaguchi Award 2023

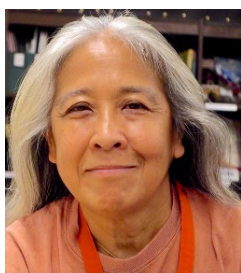
Introduction of Awardees

Dr. ISOBE Masahiko, Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo/ Professor Emeritus, Kochi University of Technology, Japan



Dr. Isobe has developed innovative analysis methods for water waves theoretically, such as the estimation of directional spectrum of ocean waves and numerical simulation of nonlinear waves, and has published many excellent research results in the field of coastal engineering related to coastal disaster prevention. Through research works on impact assessment of climate change and sea level rise, he took the lead in editing the book “Coastal Impacts of Global Warming - Actual Status, Impacts, and Response Strategies of Sea Level Rise and Climate Change.” and served as chair and committee member of many governmental committees for disaster prevention and mitigation. In particular, he greatly contributed to revise the Coast Law and introduce resilient coastal structures based on the lessons learned from the damage to ports and coasts caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake Tsunami, and further to make policy decisions on disaster prevention and mitigation measures for Nankai Trough earthquake.

Dr. Laura S.L. Kong, Director of International Tsunami Information Centre, USA



Dr. Laura Kong has been the Director of the International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC) since 2001 and, as Director, she oversees a Centre that supports the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in its efforts to deploy tsunami warning and mitigation systems globally, and that works directly with the 46-nation Intergovernmental Co-ordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS) to strengthen national tsunami warnings and preparedness. In this capacity, the ITIC works closely with the USA Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, the Japan Meteorological Agency, and other international and national tsunami warnings centers. The ITIC is a joint partnership between the IOC and the USA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Since the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, Dr. Kong has been actively involved as part of the IOC’s coordination and development of systems in the Indian Ocean, the Caribbean and adjacent regions, and Mediterranean Seas and the north Atlantic Ocean.

Research Center for Integrated Disaster Risk Management (CIGIDEN), Republic of Chile



CIGIDEN has been pivotal in overcoming the large deficits that Chile had before the 2010 Maule Earthquake in tsunami science, engineering and technology since it was established in 2012. The Center has contributed to increasing the number of specialists and researchers. It has fostered the emergence of a strong community in tsunami science in Chile, with a recognized international leadership, that has made important contributions ranging from fundamental physics and hydrodynamics, early warning systems, urban planning and tsunami evacuation, education and awareness, in collaboration with national and international peers, and relevant stakeholders. It has also contributed significantly to develop the state-of-the-art tsunami warning system operated by the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service of the Chilean Navy while also supporting the National Disaster Risk Management Service. The Center has developed initial guidelines for vertical evacuation, tsunami hazard assessment, among others. CIGIDEN has become an essential actor not only in scientific terms, but also in transferring this science effectively to the public at large.

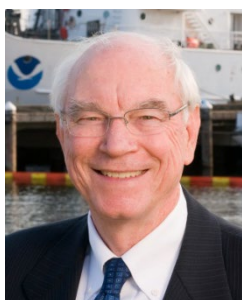
Introduction of Awardees (2016)

Prof. Nobuo Shuto: Emeritus Professor of Tohoku University, Japan; Professor of Nihon University, Japan



Professor Nobuo Shuto established a tsunami numerical model to predict tsunami characteristics and behaviors in the nearshore zone. He led the TIME (Tsunami Inundation Modeling Exchange) project supported by UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and made the numerical model of Tohoku University accessible without fees. His numerical model became the standard for UNESCO/IOC, and was transferred to 24 countries and 52 organizations, including the United States, Korea, Turkey, and Mexico. He also contributes to the quantification of tsunami damage based on post-tsunami field surveys. In the recovery process from the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake, a combination of his numerical model and his method of damage estimation is being utilized to guide the optimal siting of residential zones as well as the structural requirements for residential buildings. He was awarded the International Coastal Engineering Award given by the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Japan Academy Prize for “Comprehensive research on tsunami hazard mitigation.”

Dr. Eddie Bernard: Former Director of NOAA’s Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, USA



Dr. Eddie Bernard, who served as the founding chair of the U.S. National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program, made significant contributions to the development of the tsunami detection and flooding forecast system in use in the United States and along the Pacific Rim. These flooding forecasts are based on real-time data obtained by DART buoys, which accurately measure tsunamis in the deep sea and transmit these data through satellites to tsunami warning centers. Deep sea tsunami data are then assimilated into numerical models that forecast flooding before tsunami arrival. After the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the system was expanded to the Indian Ocean and the Caribbean Sea and became the worldwide standard of the tsunami warning system. He was awarded a Service to America Medal(2008) and the Department of Commerce Gold Medal(2005) for his work in establishing an international tsunami detection and forecast system and a U.S. tsunami mitigation program.

National Office of Emergency of the Interior Ministry (ONEMI), Republic of Chile



When a massive tsunami hit Chilean coasts in 2010, tsunami warning was not properly issued because of miscommunication among the three agencies responsible for earthquake monitoring, tsunami forecasting and issuance of warning. Therefore, ONEMI unified the roles of the three organizations, developed a simplified protocol and successfully made the tsunami warning system prompt and reliable. They also conducted tsunami evacuation drills including that at night with the participation of 60,000 people. As a result, the preparation activity for disaster mitigation in Chile was drastically improved. When another large tsunami attacked Chilean coasts in 2015, a regional office of ONEMI issued an order of preventative evacuation 8 minutes after the earthquake occurrence and the ONEMI head office released a warning 2 minutes later. These actions resulted in that 97 percent of residents in the coastal area of the fourth region of Chile (~ 60,000 people) evacuated to safety zones. Such high percentage of evacuation contributed to the reduction of human loss.

Introduction of Awardees (2017)

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.

Introduction of Awardees (2018)

Prof. Hajime Mase: Professor Emeritus / Research Professor, Kyoto University, Japan



Professor Hajime Mase has been conducting research on coastal hazard modeling and risk reduction over the past 39 years. He published more than 500 papers both in English and Japanese, and his research achievement is well known over the world. He developed real-time tsunami prediction methodology using offshore buoy network. It established scientific framework of tsunami source inversion and arrival time estimation to land. He has been also developed movable tsunami/storm surge barrier so-called “flap-type gate”, which is an automatic watertight wall working by buoyancy of the inundation water without powered machineries, remote control and human operations. Since the installation at a port in Tokushima Prefecture, the developed gates have been installed nationwide. In addition, he has developed a numerical storm surge and wave coupling model, which has been used for assessment of extreme storm surges in Japan, including estimation of the maximum storm surge heights for major three bays, Tokyo, Osaka and Ise (Nagoya) in Japan under present and future climate conditions.

Prof. Harry Yeh: Professor, School of Civil and Construction Engineering, Oregon State University, USA



Professor Yeh has investigated complex phenomena in tsunamis running onto beaches through laboratory experiments and theoretical approaches, and also investigated actual tsunami damage through his extensive field studies. His research outcomes have significant impacts not only to the academic advances in tsunami hydrodynamics but also the development of the guidelines and the software. He took a role as the lead contributor for the development of the “Guidelines for Design of Structures for Vertical Evacuation from Tsunamis” by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He also played a prime role in the development of FEMA’s software for tsunami-risk-informed decision making (HAZUS Tsunami Model). At the local level, he also supported and contributed to develop: 1) Evacuation strategies in Seaside, Oregon, 2) Design and assessment of tsunami evacuation building in Cannon Beach, Oregon, 3) Preliminary planning of a tsunami evacuation buildings in Lincoln City, Oregon, and 4) Tsunami evacuation assessment for the Pacific County, Washington.

DONET Development Team, Japan



DONET (Dense Oceanfloor Network system for Earthquakes and Tsunami), developed by the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, is the cable network system, which has a total of 51 oceanfloor measurement points and observes the crustal activities in the hypocentral region of the Tonankai and Nankai Earthquake on the Nankai Trough. It is the world-first ocean floor observation network for accurate and dense observation in a wide area. When DONET detects an earthquake and tsunami, tsunami arrival time and height, and inundation area on the coast are predicted immediately using Tsunami data base. This system has been implemented and utilized in Mie Prefecture, Wakayama Prefecture, Chubu Electric Power Co., Inc., and Owase City. In particular, the system built in Wakayama Prefectural Government can provide the prediction results to the local governments in the prefecture and the local governments can grasp respectively the risk of tsunami inundation in their areas. Also, they developed the system of calling for tsunami evacuations by informing the coastal residents the tsunami detection and inundation by area mails, and further local governments are considering the utilization of the system.

Introduction of Awardees (2019)

Prof. Tomoya Shibayama: Professor, Waseda University; Professor Emeritus, Yokohama National University, Japan



Prof. Tomoya Shibayama has been engaged in tsunami and storm surge disaster mitigation studies for more than 40 years, through the use of hydraulic laboratory experiments, field surveys and numerical simulations. He served as team leader of post-disaster survey teams for all major tsunami and storm surge events in the past fifteen years, including the Indian Ocean Tsunami (2004), the Tohoku Tsunami (2011) or the Storm Surge due to Typhoon Haiyan (2013), amongst others. Over the years, he has helped many international research teams to conduct such field surveys, especially in developing countries, where he has conducted many of these activities. In recent times he has delivered the MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) "Tsunamis and Storm Surges: Introduction to Coastal Disasters" from Edx. Through this course, he teaches the most advanced knowledge regarding coastal disasters to students throughout the world. Formerly, he was the Editor-in-Chief of Coastal Engineering Journal (CEJ), the Chairman of Ocean Engineering Committee, JSCE and the President of Japan Federation of Ocean Engineering Societies. He is now serving as the President of Japan Association for Coastal Zone Studies.

Prof. Ahmet Cevdet Yalciner: Professor, Middle East Technical University, Turkey



Professor Ahmet Cevdet Yalciner from METU, Turkey is a distinguished researcher actively studying on tsunami science since 1987. He has made valuable contributions to tsunami science in terms of tsunami numerical modeling, increasing tsunami awareness, preparedness, resilience, and development of mitigation strategies through countless international scientific projects. He was selected as the Research Fellow of Matsumae International Foundation of Japan in 1987, which provided a great opportunity for him to study in Tohoku University under the supervision of Prof. Nobuo Shuto. He devoted not only his academic endeavors but also his life to the protection of coastal communities against tsunamis, storm surges, and marine induced hazards. He had led numerous post tsunami survey teams of UNESCO since 2004 and chaired UNESCO-IOC NEAMTWS between 2013 and 2017. Several of his research students are currently working in reputable universities and research institutions on tsunami, storm surge and tropical cyclone modeling and assessment. In brief, his academic studies and leadership are remarkable in tsunami research, public awareness, and new engineering solutions on design of coastal structures.

Introduction of Awardees(2020)

Prof. Fumihiko Imamura; Director, International Research Institute of Disaster Science, Tohoku University; Professor, Tsunami Engineering, Japan



Professor Fumihiko Imamura conducted tsunami disaster risk reduction/mitigation technology development, tsunami numerical analysis, and tsunami damage surveys for over 30 years. Currently, he plays internationally as the responsible person for the Tsunami Inundation Modeling Exchange (TIME) project. In particular, he played a leader of the international emergent field survey teams since the 1992 Nicaragua Earthquake Tsunami and later, and also gave advice on the field survey reports and the restoration from the damages. He published more than 150 academic papers on tsunami in English and Japanese, a number of prefatory notes, and keynote papers. He also supported and promoted disaster prevention awareness activities related to the World Tsunami Awareness Day advocated by the United Nations, and contributed by presenting world tsunami risk assessments for the past 400 years. He served as a member of the Central Disaster Prevention Council Special Investigation Committee, the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Initiative Council Study Committee, and the Vice Chairperson of the International Geophysical Geodesy Society Tsunami Committee. Since August 2019, he has been serving the representative director of 3.11 Road Promotion Organization.

Prof. Costas Synolakis; Professor of Civil Engineering, University of Southern California, USA and Greece



In the late 1980s, Prof. Synolakis published his seminal analytical solution for the runup of solitary waves on a sloping beach. This result is the well-known “runup law” for solitary waves. He subsequently developed the theory for leading depression waves and showed that they climb further on beaches than leading elevation waves. His legacy also includes the development of MOST (Method Of Splitting Tsunami) model, developed with his students, which is now the standard operational tsunami inundation model for the tsunami warning centers at NOAA and National Weather Service, and employed world-wide. In the past decade, Prof. Synolakis and his group have organized or led in field expeditions to Flores, Indonesia, 1992, Java and Mindoro, 1994, Manzanillo, 1995, Papua New Guinea, 1998, Vanuatu, 1999, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Kenya, 2004, Java, 2006, Samoa 2009, Chile and Mentawai, 2010, Japan, 2011, Ventura, 2015, Palu, 2018, Krakatoa, 2019. These have resulted in 31 field reports and have also led to identifying previously unrecognized tsunami amplification phenomena. These results have now altered public policy on protection from tsunamis. In addition to educating and inspiring a generation of coastal engineers, Prof. Synolakis is the most articulate advocate of public literacy on tsunamis by publishing more than 25 editorials and hundreds of interviews in international outlets such as CNN, BBC, WSJ, NYTimes and Washington Post and others.

Aceh Tsunami Museum, Indonesia



The Aceh Tsunami Museum is established as a symbolic reminder of the earthquake and tsunami Indian Ocean 2004, as well as an educational center for disaster mitigation. It received the Indonesia Museum Award 2018 out of 400 museums in Indonesia. Its most important roles are to pass disaster experiences in the 2004 tsunami down to the next generation, to widely spread lessons learned from earthquake and tsunami disasters, and to prepare for future disasters. It has provided many of temporally exhibitions, workshops and events, and attracts many visitors including teenagers and foreigners. The number of visitors ranges between 2,000-3,000 on weekdays and can reach 6,000 on weekends. It has worked hard to educate younger generation who does not know much about the disaster. Disaster mitigation campaigners from 600 junior high schools have been assembling to provide education on disaster preparedness. The museum is also in charge of an evacuation center. It is designed as an evacuation hill in anticipation of future tsunami hazards.

Introduction of Awardees (2021)

Prof. Hideo Matsutomi: Emeritus Professor of Akita University, Japan; Affiliate Professor of Research and Development Initiative, Chuo University, Japan



Prof. Matsutomi has been conducting research on tsunamis behaviors for many years. He played a member of the Tsunami Committee of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics from 1995, assumed as a member of the Architectural Institute of Japan Tsunami Load Subcommittee, and proposed the estimating equations on flood speed and drifting object force. He established the Research Center for Potential Development of Disaster Prevention at Akita University. In addition, he assumed as a river counselor of the Tohoku Regional Development Bureau, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan and contributed to tsunami and flood measures. He assumed as the Disaster Prevention Advisor of Oga City, Akita, Japan, and contributed to the regional program for disaster damage reduction. In recognition of these achievements, he received “Tohoku Branch Achievement Award, the Japan Society of Civil Engineers” at the ceremony commemorating the 80th anniversary of the establishment of Tohoku Branch in 2017.

Dr. Gerassimos A. Papadopoulos: Chair of the International Society for the Prevention and Mitigation of Natural Hazards; Former Research Director of the National Observatory of Athens, Greece



Dr. Papadopoulos is a famous researcher worldwide in tsunami science and for his achievements in tsunami risk awareness and mitigation actions. He has established close collaboration with many countries. He studied, among others, at the National Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience, Japan, in 1993 supported by the Japanese-German Center Berlin, contributed to the tsunami intensity scale with the Tohoku University in 2001, and was a visiting professor at the same university in 2004. He is one of the key scientists in the tsunami field in the European-Mediterranean region. He has also 25-year-long collaboration experience with Japanese and other scientists, which enabled him to publish in scientific journals with them about 15 papers out of his 150 scientific papers. His efforts contributed also to the increase of awareness against tsunami risk not only in Greece but also at an international level. He was a co-founder of the UNESCO/IOC/NEAMTWS and chaired it from 2017 to 2020, successfully governing the tsunami warning system in the frame of IOC/UNESCO.

Pacific Tsunami Museum, USA



The Pacific Tsunami Museum was established in 1994 and is one of the oldest tsunami museums in the world. The museum was created to educate the public about the devastation caused by the 1946 Aleutian and 1960 Chilean tsunamis, so that the devastation would not fade away and be passed on to future generations. Throughout its quarter-century history, the museum was tireless in its efforts to educate residents and visitors about the dangers of tsunamis. The month of April, when the Aleutian earthquake and tsunami struck, was designated as Tsunami Awareness Month, and in 2021, the museum promoted basic knowledge of tsunami warnings, disseminated evacuation maps, and worked with residents to identify safe evacuation sites. In this way, the Pacific Tsunami Museum made great contribution to tsunami disaster prevention activities as a pioneer organization to pass on the lessons of tsunami disaster to future generations.

Introduction of Awardees (2022)

Prof. Kenji Satake; Director, Earthquake Research Institute, The University of Tokyo, Japan



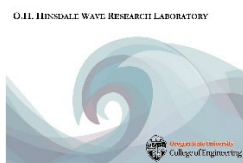
Prof. Satake has created and developed a method to analyze the scale of past earthquakes and tsunamis and the cycles of large earthquakes with long intervals by comparing and matching waveform data, historical data, distribution of tsunami deposits, and the results of tsunami simulations based on fault movement. The results of this analysis are being used to set the largest possible earthquakes and tsunamis, to create hazard maps, and to design facilities and strengthen countermeasures for disaster-resistant urban development. Furthermore, he has made various important contributions to the academic and practical progress of earthquake and tsunami disaster prevention in Japan and abroad as the chairperson of the Japan Meteorological Agency's technical advisory panel on tsunami forecasting, as a member of the committee on giant earthquake models, including those generated in the Nankai Trough, and as the chairperson of the Tsunami Commission of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics.

Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction, School of Natural and Physical Sciences, The University of Papua New Guinea, Papua New Guinea



The 1998 Aitape earthquake and tsunami caused huge damage and the issues for enhancing disaster preparedness, response and recovery arised. In commemorating 20 years of operation to improve disaster awareness and preparedness in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific region, Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction, the University of Papua New Guinea, has established and proven to be an essential entity that has successfully delivered countless teaching, research and awareness activities at both national and international level and continues to strive for lasting community outcomes. Geology and Disaster Reduction course is now offered in a 13-week (semester long) study program, which teaches the basics of disaster preparedness and mitigation, including foundation geology and natural and human-induced disasters. Research and publications on tsunami and other natural hazards in Papua New Guinea and neighboring countries are well evaluated to be significant.

O. H. Hinsdale Wave Research Laboratory, College of Engineering, Oregon State University, USA



The O.H. Hinsdale Wave Research Laboratory, established in 1972, is a state-of-the-art Center conducting both applied and fundamental research to address ocean, coastal and nearshore processes via physical model experiments. As a shared-use facility, the Hinsdale Wave Research Laboratory provides access to researchers across the US and internationally through collaborative projects supported by the US National Science Foundation since 2002. HWRL makes learning and discovery possible. With two large-scale experimental facilities, investigators are able to perform physical model testing of coastal systems subject to the action of tsunamis, waves, and/or storm surge. A large variety of projects have been carried out at the Laboratory including tsunami generation, wave propagation, wave-structure interaction, stability of coastal structures, beach erosion, offshore structures, bio-fouling, floating structures, and testing of renewable energy devices. In 50 years of operation, the HWRL have conducted around 300 research projects, and have published more than 320 papers in peer reviewed journals and international conferences.