

DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION

ARRIVAL OF THE SOUTH ASIA TSUNAMI WAVE IN THAILAND

Edited by
Nasim Uddin, Ph.D., P.E., and Alfredo Ang, Ph.D., S.E.



ASCE Council on Disaster Risk Management
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of Civil Engineers*

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WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

August 16, 2005

Warm greetings to everyone gathered in Los Angeles for the 2005 annual conference of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

America draws great strength from the success and longevity of groups such as yours. From the time of your organization's founding, it has advanced the interests and goals of your members and promoted excellence in your profession -- and excellence in civil engineering leads to a better quality of life for us all.

I was pleased to learn that one of the focuses of this year's pre-conference programs is engineering aspects of the recovery effort in the tsunami region. As the U.N. Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery, I recently visited countries hard hit by the disaster. It became clear that the rough temporary shelters for survivors were of primary concern -- and, by the same token, the fact that the labor markets are not always equipped to deal with the daunting housing and infrastructure task ahead. Massive damage to schools, medical facilities, and houses will have to be repaired, and we are working to "build back better" rather than replace poverty with poverty.

I am grateful that the civil engineering community in our country is investigating these and other challenges. I am confident that you, our nation, and the international community will continue to be well served by ASCE's dedication to providing its members with avenues to professional growth and to exploring the issues that affect people around the globe.

Best wishes for a productive conference.

Bill Clinton

Foreword

On October 26, 2005, eminent national and international participants engaged in lively presentations and discussions during a symposium and international roundtable at the American Society of Civil Engineers national convention in Los Angeles. We commend the editors of this monograph, Drs. Uddin and Ang, and their reviewers for benefiting a wider audience with some of these discussions. These papers address perennial issues on how civil engineers can learn from past disasters and work in the commons to prevent great suffering and loss.

Craig Taylor, Chair
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