

13th World Conference in Earthquake Engineering 2004 – Caribbean Implications and Recommendations

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Abstract

The 13th World Conference in Earthquake Engineering (13WCEE) was held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada from 1st – 6th August, 2004. Attended by 2,400 delegates from 52 countries, 2,421 presentations were sub-divided into 30 categories. This event is the premier source for the state-of-the-art information in Earthquake Engineering (EE) in the world and is a major determinant for setting the direction for future developments. Given the significant seismic hazard in many of the Caribbean's territories, there are implications for the developments of Earthquake Engineering in the region. In this paper, implications and recommendations are presented in terms of research and practice and with respect to what is perceived as the main directives that should be adopted by the relevant regional authorities. A major finding is that the gap between the current state of the Caribbean R&D and practice in EE and the required levels for optimal safety, cost-effectiveness and international inclusion has increased significantly and must be addressed with a sense of urgency.

Keywords: Earthquake engineering, earthquake resistant design, design criteria, seismic code, performance-based earthquake engineering.