UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

CULLEN COLLEGE of ENGINEERING

Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering

Professor Shyh-Jiann Hwang
National Taiwan University, Taiwan

Seismic Evaluation and Retrofitting Project of RC School Buildings in Taiwan

Friday, March 23, 2012

11:30 a.m. Refreshments
12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Seminar
Room W102-D Engineering Bldg. 1, UH

Abstract:

Recent reconnaissance reports revealed that elementary and high school buildings are particularly vulnerable to earthquake in Taiwan. Therefore, enhancements to the seismic capacities of the school buildings through retrofitting are urgently required. However, there are 3,621 elementary and high schools in Taiwan, and the total number of buildings may be as high as twenty thousands. Without careful planning, the cost of retrofitting could easily exceed the budget allowed by the government. Adopting an effective strategy of economical technologies and systematic prioritization is essential for this school retrofitting project to be successful. The government of Taiwan launched a project to upgrade the seismic performance of school buildings within three years (2009-2011), at a total cost of NT$17.6 billion (600 million US dollar). The objective of this speech is to report on the strategy, technology, and progress of this seismic evaluation and retrofitting project.

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About the Speaker:

Dr. Hwang is a Professor of Civil Engineering at the National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China. He also serves as the Division Head of Building Structures for National Center of Research on Earthquake Engineering (NCREE) in Taiwan. His Master and PhD are both from the University of California, Berkeley, USA. Dr. Hwang has been awarded the Distinguished Chair Professor of National Taiwan University. He serves as a voting member in ACI Committee 318, Structural Concrete Building Code; ACI/ASCE Joint Committee 352, Joints and Connections in Monolithic Concrete Structures; and ACI Committee 369, Seismic Repair and Rehabilitation. He is also very active in Taiwan Concrete Society. His research areas include the behavior and design of reinforced concrete, focusing on the shear strength prediction of RC structural members and an analytical model for beam-column joints, deep beams, squat walls, and corbels. He is currently responsible for providing technical supports to a national project that evaluates and retrofits all the non-code complianced school buildings in Taiwan.

Parking: Go to UH Entrance No. 1 (Exit I-45 South to Spur 5 and take a right at University Blvd.). At the Visitors Information Center, ask for the Cullen College of Engineering and parking instructions. For more information call Elaine Gildea at (713) 743-4251.

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