



This mail service is intended to provide the latest information concerning building regulations and our activities with domestic and overseas organizations, which are engaged in technical assessments and research in the building field.

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§ 1. Summary of a Field Survey and Research on “The 2011 Off-the-Pacific-coast-of Tohoku Earthquake” (the Great East-Japan Earthquake)

On March 11, 2011, a magnitude 9.0 earthquake occurred off the coast of Tohoku, Japan. The quake was followed by a powerful tsunami that hit the East Coast and caused extensive damage to the Tohoku and Kanto regions. The earthquake and tsunami not only caused many deaths, but also caused a nuclear power plant accident and did great damage to various structures, such as buildings and bridges.

The National Institute for Land and Infrastructure Management (NILIM) and The Building Research Institute (BRI) have sent staff members to the affected regions and have conducted extensive surveys on the damage caused to buildings and to land for residential use, resulting from the earthquake, tsunami and subsequent fires.

The following webpage has a summary of the results of the survey, and future planned activities;

<http://www.kenken.go.jp/english/contents/topics/20110311/0311summaryreport.html>

§ 2. Approaches to Environmental Considerations for Building Products



International seminar

As we informed in the previous BCJ WEB NEWS issued in Oct. 2011, BCJ and CBL (Center for Better Living) held an international open seminar on “Approaches to Environmental Considerations for Building Products” on Sep. 21, 2011, with the cooperation of WFTAO (World Federation of Technical Assessment Organizations).

We uploaded the following presentations given by WFTAO members in this seminar, onto our website; http://www.bcj.or.jp/en/what/wftao_seminar_e.html

- Current trends of development and technical assessment of innovative environmentally-friendly building products in Europe (Mr. Thomas Bruun, Manager of ETA Danmark, Secretary General of WFTAO)
- From EPD's to environmental performances of buildings, the INIES and ELODIE approach (Mr. Bruno Mesureur, Director of International Affairs of CSTB)
- Technical evaluations of building products for compliance with environmental and sustainability requirements in the United States (Mr. Michael Beaton, Senior Vice President of ICC-ES)
- Certification of environmentally-friendly housing components in Japan (Mr. Jun-ichi Murakami, Executive Director of CBL)

§ 3. JICA Training Courses: FY2011

JICA* invites people from developing countries to Japan and conducts group training courses in various fields as part of international technical assistance programs and projects. Over the years, BCJ has been involved in the operation of numerous training programs operated by JICA in the building and the housing areas.

The following program was entrusted to, organized and operated by BCJ in this fiscal year.

- Country-Focused Training Course (China): “The 4th Building Codes and Control Systems in Japan for Appropriate Architectural Management”; October 17-28
- Group Training Course: “Improvement of Housing and Living Environments”; October 27-December 2
- Counterpart Training Program (Indonesia): “Building Administration” ^{a)} March 5-16
- Country-Focused Training Course (China): “Building Construction” ^{b)} March 11-24

*JICA: Japan International Cooperation Agency

a) Counterpart Training Program for Indonesia

Among the technical cooperation projects currently being implemented by the Japanese government is “The Project on Building Administration and Enforcement Capacity Development for Seismic Resilience” in Indonesia. The aim is to improve anti-seismic systems for buildings in that country. Seventeen Indonesian trainees came to Japan for two weeks as part of this program. The trainees, who are involved in construction administration in Indonesia, came to Japan to learn about anti-seismic systems, especially for housing. They also studied the methods used to verify anti-seismic systems that are under building approval systems. BCJ was commissioned by JICA to provide lecture on the building confirmation and inspection system.



Lecture at BCJ

b) Country-Focused Training Course for China


A 3-year Japan-China cooperation project that is intended to increase the number of seismic-resistant buildings has been going on since May, 2009. In March, 2012, BCJ conducted a training course on building construction for twenty-five trainees, including building administrators and engineers from China. This course aimed to provide practical knowledge on construction of seismic-resistant buildings; such as residences, schools and hospitals in areas that are especially prone to earthquakes.

§ 4. BCJ Publications in English

a) Introduction to the Building Standard Law of Japan (Ver. February 2012)

This is a revised booklet to facilitate in the understanding of the Building Standard Law of Japan and related regulations. This document may be downloaded for free from the following website;


<http://www.bcj.or.jp/en/services/reference.html>

	<p>The current edition</p> <p>Introduction to the Building Standard Law of Japan (Ver. Feb. 2012)</p> <p>Price: Free</p> <p>File form & Size: PDF English: 5.8MB</p> <p>Language: English</p> <p>Pages: 175 (Print Size: A4)</p> <p>Date of publication: February 21, 2012</p>
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b) Quick Look at Housing in Japan (March 2011)

Quick Look was first published in 1985 to promote international awareness of the housing situation and housing policies in Japan. It has since been updated seven times to reflect policy changes and shifts in the housing situation. We published a new edition in February, 2012. This document may be downloaded for free from the following website;

<http://www.bcj.or.jp/en/services/reference.html>

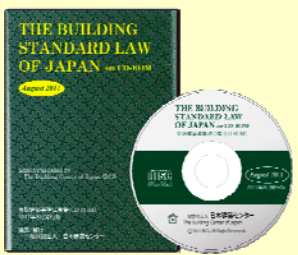
	<p>The current edition</p> <p>Quick Look at Housing in Japan (March 2011)</p> <p>Price: Free</p> <p>File form & Size: PDF English: 11.36MB / Japanese: 12.13MB</p> <p>Language: English/Japanese</p> <p>Pages: 100 (Print Size: A4)</p> <p>Date of publication: February 7, 2012</p>
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c) The Building Standard Law of Japan on CD-ROM (August 2011)

This is the English translation of the Japanese building code. It includes all of the amendments enforced through December 22, 2010.

For more detailed information, and to purchase this CD-ROM, please visit:

<http://www.bcj.or.jp/en/services/publication.html>

	<p>The Building Standard Law of Japan on CD-ROM (August 2011)</p> <p>Price: ¥10,000 (¥500 consumption tax will be added to purchases in Japan)</p> <p>Date: PDF format</p> <p>Language: English</p> <p>Pages: 1,124 (Print Size: A4)</p> <p>CD-ROM (Windows/Macintosh)</p> <p>Date of publication: August 31, 2011</p> <p>ISBN: 978-4-88910-156-0</p>
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