

**MUSEUM AND PERMANENTLY
ACTING EXHIBITION IN ARMENIA
DEDICATED TO THE 1988 SPITAK EARTHQUAKE**

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Memories for Our Future -

**The International Forum on
Telling Live Lessons
from Disasters**

March 20-22, 2010 at Yomiuri Kobe Hall, Kobe, Japan





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AAEE was established in 1998 and was registered by the Ministry of Justice of Armenia in 1999

In the year 2000 AAEE became a member of the International Association for Earthquake Engineering (IAEE) and in 2002 a member of the European Association for Earthquake Engineering (EAEE)

The first large project of AAEE was the establishment of a Museum and a permanently acting Exhibition on the achievements in the field of earthquake engineering dedicated to the 1988 Spitak Earthquake

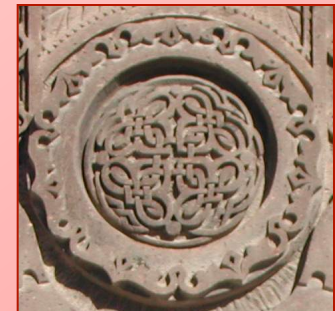


LOCATION OF THE MUSEUM AND EXHIBITION



This unique seismically isolated building itself exhibits the newest achievement in the field of earthquake engineering in Armenia

Museum was established in November 22, 2002 in a basement of a 4-story base isolated apartment building, constructed in Spitak in 1996-1998 in the central part of the city immediately next to the Memorial devoted to the 1988 Spitak Earthquake victims



The Municipality of Spitak (late Mayor - Suren Avetissyan) was actively working within the framework of the AAEE Project by allocating the above mentioned premises for the Museum, by raising the public awareness, and by informing the population of the region about the course of the Project implementation



Mr. Suren Avetissyan was serving as the Mayor of Spitak at the time of creation of the Museum



THE AIM OF THE PROJECT AND ITS JUSTIFICATION

The destructive consequences of the 1988 Spitak Earthquake are well known – more than 25,000 people killed and more than 500,000 people remained homeless

Thus, it is necessary first to always **remember** what had happened and who had extended **help** to Armenia for reconstruction of the Earthquake Zone, and second to **draw lessons** as well as to **educate** the population for acquisition and further improvement of its seismic literacy

❖ The happened tragedy showed that underestimation of this inescapable natural phenomenon leads to consequences, which turn back the development of the country for decades. This takes place, when the world experience in assessment of seismic hazard and risk and protection against it is ignored

❖ Every member of the society should know what kind of hazard is in store for him and how he can help himself and others in case of an earthquake. By creating his dwelling or his working place without the necessary base of knowledge, a person exposes himself and others, as well as his progeny, to a mortal danger conditioned by forthcoming earthquakes

❖ One should not live for the day only and think, that the earthquake would hit somewhere far away from him. Because of lack of education in the areas of earthquake engineering and disaster management people continue to build their habitation in absolutely inadequate ways towards the real seismic hazard

The Museum and Exhibition became a source of knowledge, education and information for people from various strata of society and of different ages


Museum and permanently acting Exhibition was established under the auspices of the:



**GOVERNMENT OF
NORWAY**



“KANAKA” OJSC

Grant Thornton Amyot 

**“GRANT THORNTON AMYOT” CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS, MANAGEMENT,
TAX & LEGAL CONSULTANTS**

CARITAS

**“CARITAS WOOD WORKING
CENTER” SWISS- ARMENIAN
JOINT ENTERPRISE**



**WORLD BANK YEREVAN
OFFICE**



“ARMPROJECT” CJSC



“BUSINESS CONSULT” CJSC



**ARMENIAN ASSOCIATION
FOR EARTHQUAKE
ENGINEERING**



**“YEREVAN FACTORY FOR
RUBBER TECHNICAL
ARTICLES” OJSC**



**MIKAYEL AND
NAIRA
MELKUMYAN
FAMILY**



**DR. AGBABIAN
FAMILY
FROM USA**



**AMERICAN
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ARMENIA**



**ARMENIA FUND
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“NAHAPET & Co.” Ltd. Co

“TIGRAN & ARTSRUN” Ltd. Co

“M. LAMBARYAN” Ltd. Co

“YEGHVARD YEREVAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY” Ltd. Co



FOR CREATION OF THE MUSEUM AAEE HAD UNDERTAKEN THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

➤ selection and allocation of premises for the Museum

➤ development of drawings for repair and construction works in the allocated premise



➤ implementation of repair and construction works



➤ negotiations with International Institutions, Embassies of different countries, and with local companies and institutions for providing financial and other support



- purchasing and obtaining of equipment
- purchasing and obtaining of furniture



- obtaining and preparation of exhibits
- creation of library of video-films on earthquakes
- creation of library of technical and educational literature
- preparation of posters, etc.



POSTERS OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



Museum was officially opened on November 22, 2002. The posters on the history of establishment of the Museum and on the activities of the nine countries, namely:



Austria



Belarus



Germany



Italy



Norway



Poland



Russia



Turkmenistan



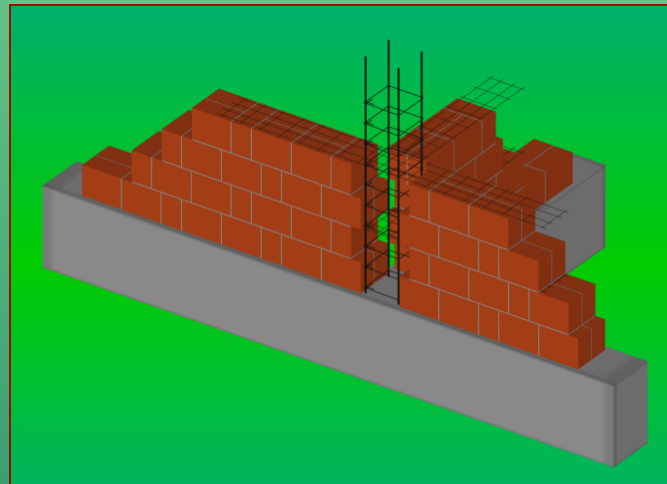
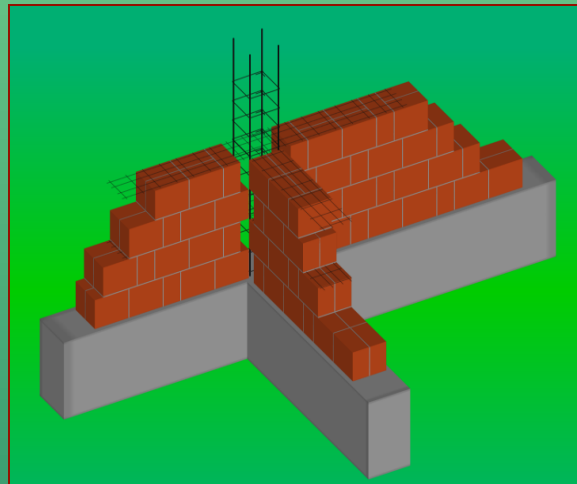
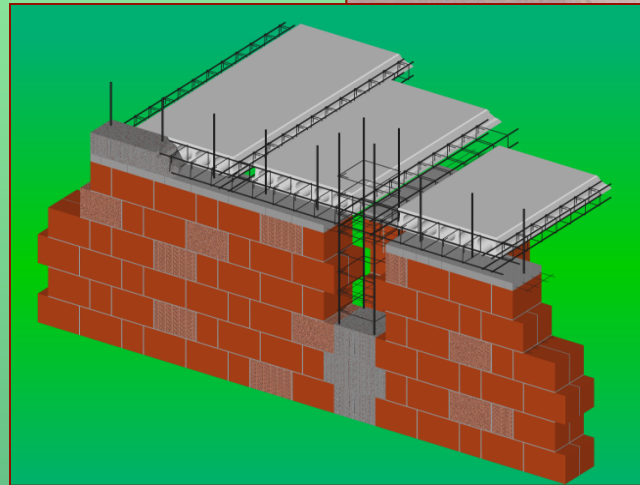
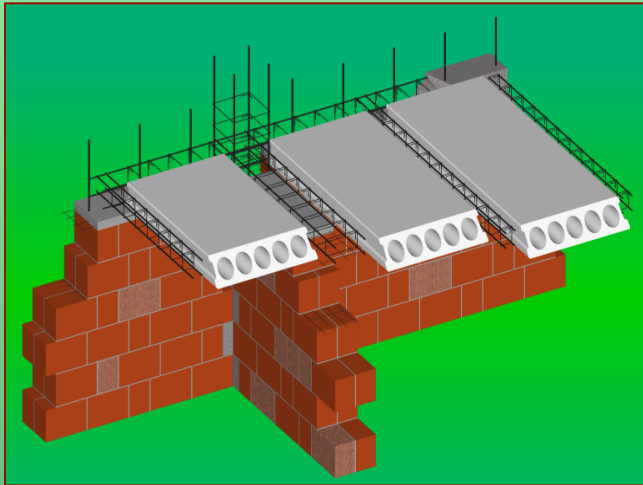
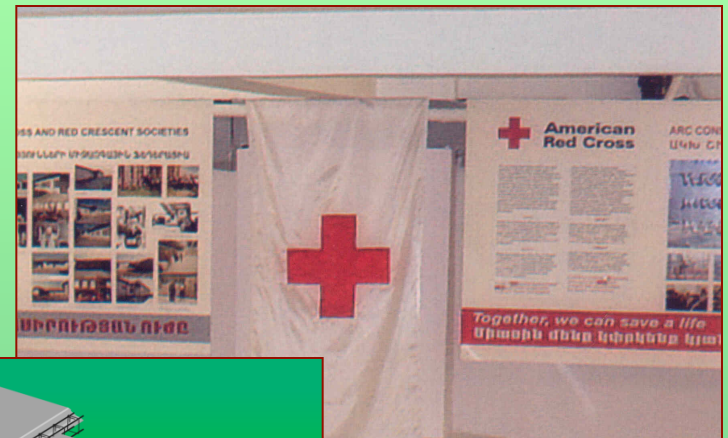
Ukraine



as well as three International organizations - **World Bank, American Red Cross, Red Cross and Red Crescent Federation** are located here



Some educational posters of the
Armenian and American Red Cross
and of **AAEE** are also located here



Several educational
films telling about
earthquakes in
different countries
and their
consequences and
about rescue works
were collected

Armenian experts
are conducting
lectures for different
groups of
population, giving
them explanations
on all the issues they
are interested in

COLLABORATION ON LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

- ☐ A special attention in the Museum was paid to the improvement of seismic literacy of children, pupils of schools and students of universities
- ☐ A close collaboration with the construction companies and universities was maintained
- ☐ Also it is supposed that the experts, invited from abroad, will periodically lecture and hold classes here
- ☐ The Museum may have a regional importance, as it is proposed to closely collaborate with the relevant authorities of neighbouring countries and to organize visits, lectures, and seminars for them
- ☐ There is no similar Museum in any of the three South-Caucasus countries and this also proves its originality

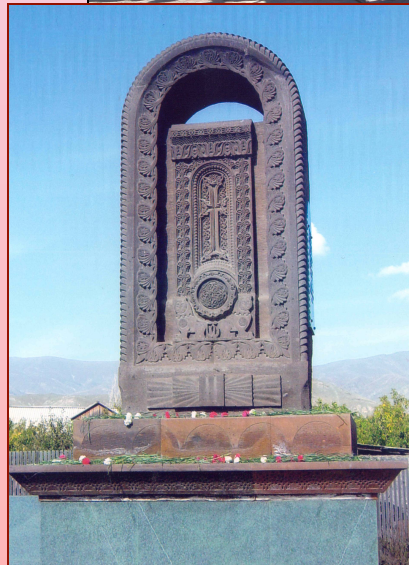
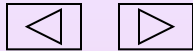
OFFICIAL REGISTRATION OF THE MUSEUM AND FURTHER NEEDED ACTIVITIES

After its establishment the Museum was given by AAEE as a gift to the Municipality of Spitak and was officially registered in May 2003 as “1988 Earthquake Museum” LLC. In order to ensure the further development and successful operation of the Museum the following tasks should be solved:

- recruitment of the personnel
- training of the personnel
- further obtaining of equipment
- further preparation of exhibits
- creation or purchase of computerized educational programs on earthquake engineering and disaster management
- enlarging of the library of video films on earthquakes, systems for seismic protection and disaster management
- enlarging of the library of books, journals and other educational materials on earthquakes, systems for seismic protection and disaster management
- public awareness campaign - informing the population about the establishment of the Museum and its activities through mass media



- development and publishing of a booklet about the Museum
- organization of regular visits to the Museum for different groups of population
- organization of regular seminars and trainings



Continuous sponsorship and help to ensure sustainability of the Museum and permanently acting Exhibition is needed

EXPECTED RESULTS **AND THEIR EVALUATION**

◆ The Museum and Exhibition will allow acquainting people with the works, which are being carried out to protect the population against earthquakes. Owing to the well prepared exhibits, video-films and the computer animations, people will realize that the seismic protection of their dwellings and working places is a matter of extraordinary paramount importance in Armenia. People will obtain simple, but efficient advices on how to strengthen their inhabitation and how to build new houses correctly, as well as how to maximally secure their working places

◆ The visitors will be acquainted with the instructions, which must be used before, during and after an earthquake. Moreover, they will acquire the rules of the rescue works and medical assistance in case of an earthquake. The main thing is that people will be prepared enough in order not to be taken unawares by the catastrophe, as it happened on December 7, 1988, to avoid panic and chaos

◆ If the result on increasing of seismic literacy by population is achieved, then it will allow to change the nowadays situation, when, in spite of high seismic hazard, people are living only for the day, thinking that they will avoid the earthquake

The Museum and Exhibition activities are usually being evaluated by the following criteria:

- ◆ **quantity of the visitors**
- ◆ **quantity of the seminars, practical studies and courses, conducted by the personnel**
- ◆ **quantity of the people, received certificates on passing the courses and practical studies**
- ◆ **permanent renewal of the exposition, reflecting the recent achievements**
- ◆ **records of the feedback by visitors about the effectiveness of the exposition**
- ◆ **records of the feedback by local and central authorities, various enterprises and institutions, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and others**

