Preliminary Reconnaissance Report of the 2011 Tohoku-Chiho Taiheiyo-Oki Earthquake

Edited by the Architectural Institute of Japan

Geotechnical, Geological and Earthquake Engineering series

- The only official reconnaissance report of the Architectural Institute of Japan
- Full of concrete information on building damages in the Tohoku and Kanto regions
- Mainly consists of field information in the damaged areas without detailed analysis

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Devastating damage in the Tohoku region of Japan occurred during and after the earthquake off the Pacific coast of Tohoku on March 11, 2011. The AIJ (Architectural Institute of Japan) dispatched reconnaissance teams into the field to obtain basic facts on the damage to buildings due to the massive ground motions and resultant tsunami. Their mission included collecting information on the characteristics of the earthquake itself and the observed major ground motions and tsunamis throughout the area. For the structural damage investigation, buildings are classified by their type of construction, namely, steel buildings, reinforced concrete buildings, wooden houses, etc. along with descriptions of special features for each category of building type. The report summarizes damage associated with ground failures including landslide and liquefaction as well as non-structural damages such as equipment and facilities, partitioning walls and ceilings, and functional failures in skyscrapers. Also, a brief description of the Japanese Seismic Design Code will be provided in the Appendix. A proposed scheme of anti-tsunami design for buildings is also included.