New Frontier of Education and Research in Wind Engineering: A Global Center of Excellence

……..On June 17th, 2008, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan, awarded Tokyo Polytechnic University the Global Center of Excellence titled: ***New Frontiers of Education and Research in Wind Engineering****. This center will be led by a team of researchers from Tokyo Polytechnic University in collaboration with the NatHaz Modeling Laboratory at the University of Notre Dame.……..*

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) recently announced the names of the successful proposals for establishing the "Global COE (Centers of Excellence)". This initiative was launched following the success of "21st Century Center of Excellence (COE) Programs" introduced in 2002 by MEXT, which is similar in scope and funding to NSF's Engineering Research Centers (ERC). The next level of centers, named the Global COE, are intended to provide funding support for establishing education and research centers that perform at the apex of global excellence to elevate the international competitiveness of the Japanese universities. The program is intended to strengthen and enhance the education and research functions of graduate schools. In addition, it will foster highly creative young researchers who will go on to become world leaders in their respective fields through experience and practice in research at the highest international standard.

Four years back, Tokyo Polytechnic University was among the initial recipients of the 21st Century Center of Excellence Program with a proposal titled: Wind Effects on Buildings and Urban Environment. The selection for the Global COE initiative was very competitive and included several layers of evaluation processes as well as the final phase with presentations and a question and answer session before a blue ribbon panel of experts. The number of Global COE awards was set to be much lower than the original 21st Century COE program, but was allocated a higher level of funding to conduct the next level of transformative research and education.

Out of 14 centers total funded by Global COEs in engineering, three other awarded centers involved collaborators from the US: Earthquake Engineering at Tokyo Institute of Technology in collaboration with UC Berkeley; Micro-Nano Systems Engineering at Nagoya University in collaboration with UCLA; Symbiotic, Safe and Secure Systems Design at Keio University in collaboration with MIT.

Link : http://www.wind.arch.t-kougei.ac.jp/GCOEtemp/english/index.html