

## **PREFACE**

The world conferences on earthquake engineering, which are held every four years under the sponsorship of the International Association of Earthquake Engineering (IAEE), had their beginning with the World Conference on Earthquake Engineering held in Berkeley, California, in 1956 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. At the follow-up Second World Conference on Earthquake Engineering (2WCEE) in Tokyo-Kyoto, Japan, in 1960, the IAEE was officially formed, and the precedent was set to hold the world conferences on earthquake engineering every four years under its sponsorship. Since the 2WCEE, the conferences have been held in Auckland-Wellington, New Zealand, in 1965; Santiago, Chile, in 1969; Rome, Italy, in 1973; New Delhi, India, in 1977; and in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1980.

Interest in the world conferences has steadily increased as evidenced by the growth in the size of the conference proceedings and the number of participating countries. The 1956 Berkeley Conference proceedings consist of a single volume containing 40 papers from 12 different countries. In contrast, these 8WCEE proceedings consist of seven volumes containing approximately 850 papers from 43 countries. The scope of the conferences has also broadened as reflected by the following topic areas covered in these proceedings:

- Seismic risk and hazard.
- Ground motion and seismicity.
- Soil stability, soil-structure interaction, and foundations.
- Experimental methods and tests of structures and components.
- Design of structures and structural components.
- Special structures and critical facilities.
- Response of structures.
- Repair, strengthening, and retrofit of structures.
- Urban design, socioeconomic issues, and public policy.
- Lifelines—utility and transportation systems.
- Non-structural systems and building contents.
- Development and enforcement of seismic codes and standards.

The authors of the papers included in these proceedings are to be commended, as the information they provide herein will contribute significantly to our common goal, which is to mitigate loss of life and property damage during future earthquakes.

*The Steering Committee,  
8WCEE*