



## **Recent Earthquake and Tsunami Preparedness training activities in DPEU KOERI**

Seyhun Puskulcu and Gulum Tanircan

Bogazici University Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute, Disaster Preparedness Education Unit, İstanbul, Turkey (seyhun.puskulcu@gmail.com)

The Disaster Preparedness Education Unit (DPEU) at Bogazici University's Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute (KOERI) that was established after 1999 Kocaeli earthquake and has been continuing to develop high-quality curricula and training materials for community-focused disaster preparedness education through countrywide. The unit works to build bridges between scientists, academics and technical experts in this field, and the people who need access to knowledge to reduce their risk from disasters and develops disaster preparedness training materials, organizes and conducts teacher trainings, and participates in research activities on these topics.

DPEU also accommodates the Earthquake Park, where training courses are supported with an earthquake simulator. It hosts more than 4000 students every year for training of how to behave before, during and after an earthquake occurs. In addition to theoretical knowledge, simulation of isolated and fix based 10 storey building models were created at Earthquake Park for rising student's structural awareness. The unit also is involving many national and international projects. DPEU is very actively involved the recent international MarDIM (Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster Mitigation in the Marmara Region and Disaster Education in Turkey) Project which is performing by many Turkish and Japanese institutions and produced the tsunami education booklet, video, a cartoon movie and serviced many training of Earthquake Park.

DPEU has also a Mobile Earthquake Simulation Training Truck developed in 2007, aiming to create a stage for community awareness for the earthquake preparedness and to change the common wrong perception and ignorance on the natural event of earthquakes. 500 thousands people have been trained by simulation truck all over Turkey within 5 years.

DPEU just started to train the housewives located in Marmara region on earthquake and tsunami preparedness with the collaboration of several municipalities in İstanbul.