

NEWS RELEASE  
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## NZ quake engineering for Tianjin building

An international earthquake engineering partnership established by the city councils of Tianjin, China, and Wellington in 2000 has taken a major step forward with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Tianjin Seismological Bureau (TSB) and Earthquake Engineering NZ (EENZ).

The Chairman of Earthquake Engineering NZ, Dr David Hopkins, says the Tianjin Seismological Bureau is looking to use New Zealand base-isolation technology and expertise in the development of its 6000m<sup>2</sup> new headquarters. The building will contain sensitive seismic monitoring equipment as well as emergency management personnel and operations.

“The base-isolation technology developed by Dr Bill Robinson in Wellington is ideal for protecting contents and ensuring continuity of operations after a major earthquake event,” says Dr Hopkins. “Examples of Wellington buildings already protected by base-isolation include Te Papa, Parliament Buildings, Hutt Hospital operating theatres, and the Old BNZ building.”

The Memorandum of Understanding also includes an agreement to further share information and explore more efficient ways to better protect our cities from earthquake risks, including developing a Tianjin Earthquake City Risk analysis (including engineering lifelines) project.

Tianjin is the third largest city in China, as well as being the port city for Beijing. About 25,000 people lost their lives in Tianjin during a major earthquake in 1976.

The MOU agreements were signed during last week’s visit to Wellington by a Tianjin Earthquake Disaster Mitigation Delegation led by Tianjin Vice-Mayor Mr Dongliang Yang, who met with Earthquake Engineering NZ and associated Natural Hazards NZ members.

Wellington Deputy Mayor Alick Shaw, who together with his opposite number presided over proceedings, says he is delighted to see tangible progress towards New Zealand involvement in a project in Tianjin. It underlined the value of the relationship between Wellington and Tianjin, he says.

These agreements are a significant step for the Earthquake Engineering NZ cluster, and associated Natural Hazards NZ cluster, as well as for the Wellington Business Cluster Programme supported by the Positively Wellington Business development agency of the Wellington, Lower Hutt, Upper Hutt and Porirua City Councils.



Signing in the Wellington City Council Chambers of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Director of Tianjin Seismological Bureau, Mr Guomin Zhao, and Earthquake Engineering NZ by cluster representatives, Dr David Hopkins, Chairman of Earthquake Engineering NZ, and Dr Alex Malahoff, Chief Executive Officer, Institute of Geological & Nuclear Sciences.



Tianjin Earthquake Disaster Mitigation Delegation members being shown the Te Papa Quakesafe Base Isolation technology by members of the Earthquake Engineering NZ and associated Natural Hazards NZ business clusters.

**For further details please contact:**

Dr David Hopkins, Chairman, Earthquake Engineering NZ, Director, David Hopkins Consulting Ltd, tel +64 4 384 3903 or +64 27 246 8922

Noel Trustrum, Co Chair, Natural Hazards NZ, Hazards Marketing Manager, Institute of Geological & Nuclear Sciences, tel +64 4 570 4690 or +64 27 442 5287

Kevin Murphy, Director, Council-Controlled Organisations, Wellington City Council, tel +64 4 801 3618 or +64 27 230 1618.