

# **Background Information**

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As a background information to our Workshop, allow me to give a brief history of this revolutionary new technology which challenged many orthodoxies of the past centuries in the field of anti-seismic practices.

Research on seismic base isolation was started almost at the same time, about 30-35 years ago by Professor James Kelly in Berkeley, California, and by Dr.W.H.Robinson in Wellington, New Zealand. Based on long theoretical considerations , laboratory experiments and shaking-table tests, the first demonstration building could be built in California.

The main milestones of the success-story of seismic base isolation:

1. Foothill Communities Law- and Justice Center, San Bernardino, California .1985, (96 base isolators)
2. Tenjoresmi, Pelabuhan Ratu, Java, Indonesia.4-storey, low -cost apartment house . 1993, (16 base isolators)
3. Shantou, China. 8-storey building , 1994,(22 base isolators)

Following the explosively rapid development and spreading of the new technology in China, efforts are now made to create a focal point in Europe, based on Chinese experience and know-how, with the aim to introduce the seismic base isolation technology for reducing seismic risk in this region.

The first event of this effort is the present workshop, where eminent scientists and engineers give an over-all review of the present situation in the region and Chinese professors and industrial specialists report on their achievements.