

Let me welcome you Ladies and Gentlemen here in Budapest at the **First International Seismic Base Isolation Workshop!**

On (the)23rd (of) April an earthquake measuring 4,8 on the Richter scale struck the Northern Hungarian region. Since Hungary directly confronted with the phenomenon of earthquakes there is no doubt that the topic of today's workshop is more than relevant.

Although the technology of Seismic Base Isolation is almost unknown even among specialists in Hungary, it has substantial potential and relevance.

Allow me to tell a few words about the origins of B.I. technology and to present the focal points of this workshop.

The development of Base Isolation started about 3 decades ago. It was first implemented in USA, San Bernardino, where *Foothil Communities Law and Justice Center* was built in 1986 with 30 million USD budget.

Since then, by applying B.I. technology several thousands of public and office buildings (19-storey as well) were built in (the)USA, New Zealand, Indonesia and China. Moreover numerous industrial areas, nuclear power plants and river bridges are supported by this technology.

Over the last decades several historic and heritage buildings and numerous public institutions have been fortified with B.I. Nowadays the use of B.I. is so widespread all around the world, that only in China one million school buildings are planned to be supported by B.I. technology in the near future.

It is widely known that many countries in Southern and South-East Europe, the Balcan States and the Middle Eastern countries are very much in danger of earthquakes, where Base Isolation technology could be implemented and used effectively in the future.

Since Government Decree 303/2010 (XII. 23.) established National Innovation Office (NIH) as the governmental body responsible for research, development and technological innovation it is our main task to support the promotion and implementation of innovative technologies. We have the honour to host the first International Seismic Base Isolation Workshop and to present this world-class, Chinese innovation with roots of Hungarian origin. We welcome more than 100 participants from 9 countries including Russia, Iran, Austria and Bosnia and Herzegovina and presentations from China, Turkey, Syria, Romania and Hungary.

Our Chinese guests will meet specialists from the listed regions, and will gain further understanding about the seizmological characteristics of the above countries. Moreover we would like to present the opportunity to find potential Hungarian partners and to get informed of the markets in question. (vagy concerned/highlighted markets)

The workshop and the meetings on the following two days should lead/ hope to/ may /are expected to lead to the development of mutual understanding and belief in a common success. Our main aim is to spread B.I. technology in order to reduce seismic risk. The possibility of setting up a Hungarian Base Isolation Technology Centre should result in remarkable growth and job creation.

Now I would like to call upon Prof. Emanuel Csorba, who is the mastermind of this outstanding technology to speak. Wishing you all a successful and pleasant workshop!