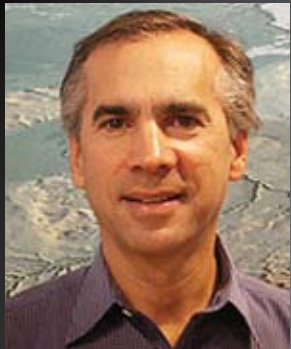


SECED/IStructE Joint Evening Meeting

Wednesday 10 December 2008

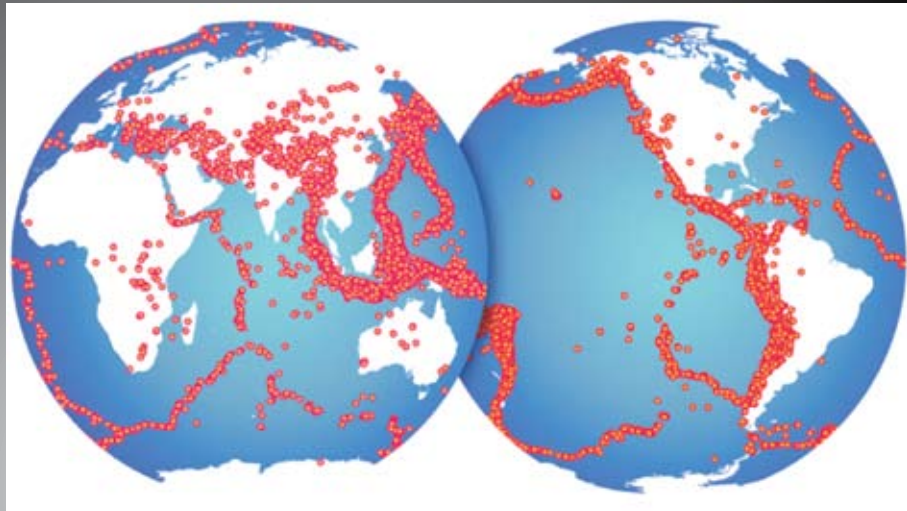
at 6pm, International HQ

(Refreshments from 5.30pm)



Ross S. Stein

U.S. Geological Survey,
Menlo Park, California



GEM: The Global Earthquake Model - A Public-Private Partnership

GEM is an independent standard to estimate and convey earthquake risk, raise risk awareness, promote mitigation, insurance use, and risk transfer.

The world has already suffered 500,000 quake deaths during this decade. Most countries either have no hazard information, it's inaccessible, or one has to pay for it. We believe that everyone should be able to learn what their risk is. At the very least, we should be able to estimate risk.

The key goal of GEM is to raise quake risk awareness, without which nothing will change. We have no illusions that maps raise awareness; instead quakes do. But when an earthquake strikes, people need a credible place to go to answer the questions 'how

vulnerable am I?', and 'what are my options?' When we cannot make judgments, we ignore the risk.

GEM must be as uniform in its approach as possible, and as comprehensive as possible. It must be open, international, and independent—politically, financially, commercially, and scientifically. And it must be accessible and understandable to everyone. We intend to create new open-source software, standards, and global data sets. Building vulnerability and inventories will be central, and we must engage scientists in quake-prone countries to develop national models. Gem has secured over half of its €35M five-year funding through private and public sponsors, and plans to begin in earnest in January 2009.



SECED is an Associated Society of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE). Members and Non-Members are welcome to attend.



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The evening meeting is free of charge. There is also a dinner (at least 1 week prior booking required) at the Institution after the meeting. The cost of the dinner is £34 + VAT (£39.95), including three courses and drinks. The dinner provides a good opportunity to meet clients, construction industry colleagues, and people in government, as well as the authors of the paper being presented. Please email your dinner reservation, with your full contact details and the names of any guests to clare.lavelle@istructe.org. Late comers will only be admitted to the overflow facility, not the main lecture theatre.