



TO: Members, National Society of Professional Engineers

The National Society of Professional Engineers extends its heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the people of Japan, particularly those hit hardest by Friday's earthquake and resulting tsunami. This is the most powerful earthquake to hit Japan in recorded history and despite the advanced design codes and huge strides the country has made in earthquake engineering, there will be a huge need for restoration and rebuilding efforts as a result of these tragic events. We have reached out to our colleagues in the Japan Society of Professional Engineers with a [letter](#) of support. While we are all feeling the need to assist in the gargantuan relief effort, remember that monetary donations are best received by one of the charitable organizations listed on the United States Agency for International Development Web site, <http://www.usaid.gov>, or by another reputable relief organization working in the country.

As professional engineers, we have special skills and expertise to offer, in addition to our commitment to safeguard the public's health, safety, and welfare. Many of you may be wondering how to engage and assist the citizens of Japan at this most difficult time, since many of you are qualified to provide assistance in areas such as structural safety assessment, damage assessment, water supply, sanitation, power supply, and communicable disease prevention and control. These services are being coordinated through several federal and state agencies. NSPE has contacted these agencies to offer help in the recovery and reconstruction and to establish channels for voluntary engineering services to be effectively deployed (view letters here). At this time, we are being advised to remind engineers NOT to self-deploy to affected areas. If you are interested in assisting in an engineering role, please send your name and specialty area to NSPE Executive Director Larry Jacobson at [ljacobson@nspe.org](mailto:ljacobson@nspe.org) or we encourage you to register with the Center for International Disaster Information at <http://dex.cidi.org>.

The outpouring of offers to provide assistance by the professional engineering community and our sister engineering societies is truly inspirational. Rest assured there will be many opportunities to help the citizens of Japan, and NSPE will do its best to keep you informed.

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