

PROSPECTUS

Japan is a country prone to significant seismic activity, and over the centuries Japanese society has suffered many disastrous earthquakes that have caused widespread destruction and the loss of countless lives. The structural design strategy of "Seismic Isolation" is a technology capable of substantially mitigating the effect of earthquake shaking on buildings and other structures by supporting them with devices that softly deform and absorb energy during an earthquake. Seismic Isolation offers new opportunities for flexible, diverse, and most importantly, highly earthquake-resistant structural design.

Since the mid-1980s an enormous research and development effort into Seismic Isolation has brought the long-time goal of damage-free seismic design to the point of reality. Coupled with the tremendous research and development advances, the excellent performance of isolated buildings in recent earthquakes has shown that Seismic Isolation can maintain not only the safety but also the functionality of structures. These milestones have seen Seismic Isolation finally reach acceptance in our society.

The Japan Society of Seismic Isolation, JSSI, was established in June 1993, by experienced academicians, design engineers, constructors and seismic isolation device manufacturers, as a voluntary organization to promote and popularize the technology of Seismic Isolation. Since its founding, JSSI has conducted studies on the technology and provided guidelines for the design, installation and maintenance of isolation devices. JSSI has also organized symposiums, conducted tours to construction sites, provided training and organized lectures for engineers and architects, thus contributing to the popularization of Seismic Isolation for buildings.

Seismic Isolation represents a key technology for the highest level of protection for buildings and structures from earthquake destruction, and has the potential to benefit people in all earthquake-prone regions of the world. In comparison with conventional seismic structural design methods, Seismic Isolation is still a new and emerging technology and further development and understanding is necessary for it to become fully and widely accepted.

In order to most effectively promote and popularize Seismic Isolation, it is necessary to found a professional organization to support research and development into the technology for the assurance of safety, to establish technical standards for the design, construction and maintenance of seismically isolated structures, to issue guidelines for design and construction methods, and most generally to broaden the understanding and knowledge of Seismic Isolation. An incorporated body, The Japan Society of Seismic Isolation, is hereby founded to accomplish these objectives.

The Japan Society of Seismic Isolation (JSSI)