2007 BLIND ANALYSIS CONTEST BY E-DEFENSE

The executive committee on the E-Defense steel building project is pleased to announce the 2007 blind analysis contest for a full-scale 4-story steel building, which will be tested to collapse by using the world's largest three-dimensional shaking table located at Miki City, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan. The building will be shaken and collapsed from September 20 to 30, 2007, by applying an intense ground motion, a scaled version of the near-fault motion recorded during the 1995 Kobe earthquake.

The contest will be carried out by two working groups (WGs) under the executive committee. The "Analysis Method and Verification WG" will do tasks including announcement, distribution of data, answering questions, and judgment. The "Building Collapse Simulation WG" will produce the experimental data for the collapse of the four-story building.

Each participant should predict the responses before and after the test, and the closest predictions to the test results will be awarded. Because the actual loadings will be determined during the course of the testing based on observed response, the contest has two parts: *pre-test analysis* based on anticipated earthquake loadings, and *post-test analysis* using the actual loadings. The building analytical model for the *post-test analysis* must be identical with that for the *pre-test analysis*.

The contest is categorized by the types of analysis methods and participants. Types of analysis methods are categorized into 3D- and 2D-analyses. Each category will have two winners: one from researchers including students, and another from practicing engineers. Therefore, a total of four winners will be recognized.

While names and affiliations of all participating teams will be identified, results will be presented anonymously (unlabeled) except for those of the winners. It is planned that the winners be invited to and honored at a special session of the 14th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering (WCEE), 2008, Beijing, P.R. China, with their travel expenses and accommodations covered by the contest sponsor.

Due dates for submitting results of *pre-test analysis* and *post-test analysis* are September 10 and November 30, respectively. Details of contest rules and building data will be posted on the E-Defense web-site on May 20 (http://www.bosai.go.jp/hyogo/ehyogo/index.html).

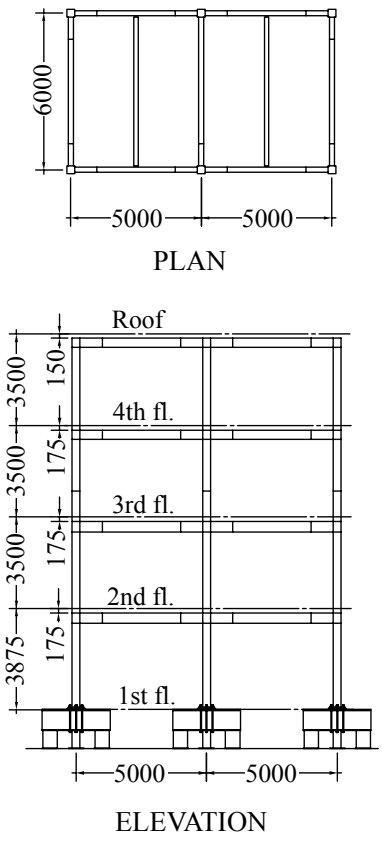

Figure : Full-scale 4-sory steel building for collapse test (Unit = mm); Non-structural elements such as cladding panels, windows, partitions, doors, and ceiling will be attached.