

IDEERS Newsletter

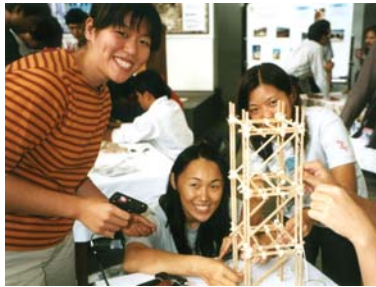
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Introducing and Demonstrating Earthquake Engineering Research in Schools

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IDEERS in Taiwan

In October 2002, Dr Wendy Daniell and Dr Adam Crewe took **IDEERS** to Taiwan on the invitation of the British Council's to run it as a high profile scientific event during their Education Exhibition. It was run twice as a one-day event for civil engineering undergraduates.



Students, in teams of four, planned their models and cut materials in advance of the event. On the day, they were given five hours

to construct their models. Over the two days, there were 160 participants from 24 Universities.

IDEERS was hosted by the National Centre for Earthquake Engineering Research (NCREE) in Taipei, and was sponsored by the Taiwan National Science Council (NSC) and the British Council. The event was opened by the Vice-Chairman of the NSC and by the Director General of the British Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan.

IDEERS was a great success. Students were competitive and had considered their designs seriously. 20 models at a time were tested on the NCREE shaking-table, and the students became very noisy and excited as their models were tested to destruction. The event was reported on Taiwan national TV and in the national papers.

The staff at NCREE was very supportive in collaborating with the Bristol team during the event. They all thought that **IDEERS** was great fun, but on a more serious note, recognised it as an excellent vehicle for supporting the teaching of engineering. They plan to run **IDEERS** in the future, not just for undergraduates but also as a separate event for high school students. The Bristol team has been invited back in September 2002 for the next event.

First IDEERS Final

The final of the first annual **IDEERS** competition will be held on March 20th 2002. The total number of entrants will not be known until the end of February, which is the deadline for schools to enter the preliminary round of the competition, by post.

IDEERS goes North



Last November, Dr Daniell ran a day's workshop in Preston to promote **IDEERS** to teachers from schools in the North West. The workshop was supported by the NW

region of the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) and instigated by their Education Manager. Teachers were shown the **IDEERS** web-site resources, and demonstrations of simple experiments described on the site. They also took on a simplified version of the **IDEERS** challenge to get an idea of the accessibility of the project for their pupils.

Feedback from CITB November 2001 Workshop

'The web based materials are excellent and I found the simple experiments provided a new dimension to the lesson on earthquakes.' Geography teacher, Wigan

The workshop was well received, and feedback from the teachers has led to another being organised in Liverpool in March 2002. So far, eighteen teachers from different disciplines have registered for it. Their subjects include technology, construction, science, maths, geography and geology. The range of interest demonstrates the cross curricula nature of **IDEERS** and, of course, civil engineering.

IDEERS in Science Week

This year, National Science Week will be running from the 8th-17th March. The **IDEERS** team is collaborating with at-Bristol, the new science centre in Bristol, to run **IDEERS** as a one-day event on March 14th, for 13-14 year old students from local schools (see www.ideers.bris.ac.uk/at-bristol). Only 16 teams can enter, and already 15 have enrolled for the challenge. Students will plan their models and cut the MDF in advance of the event. On the day, they will make their models at the science centre, and then walk up to the University to have them tested on the shaking-table. The University is sponsoring the event, under their Widening Participation Scheme, jointly with at-Bristol.

For further details on the IDEERS project visit the web-site at www.ideers.bris.ac.uk or contact:

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