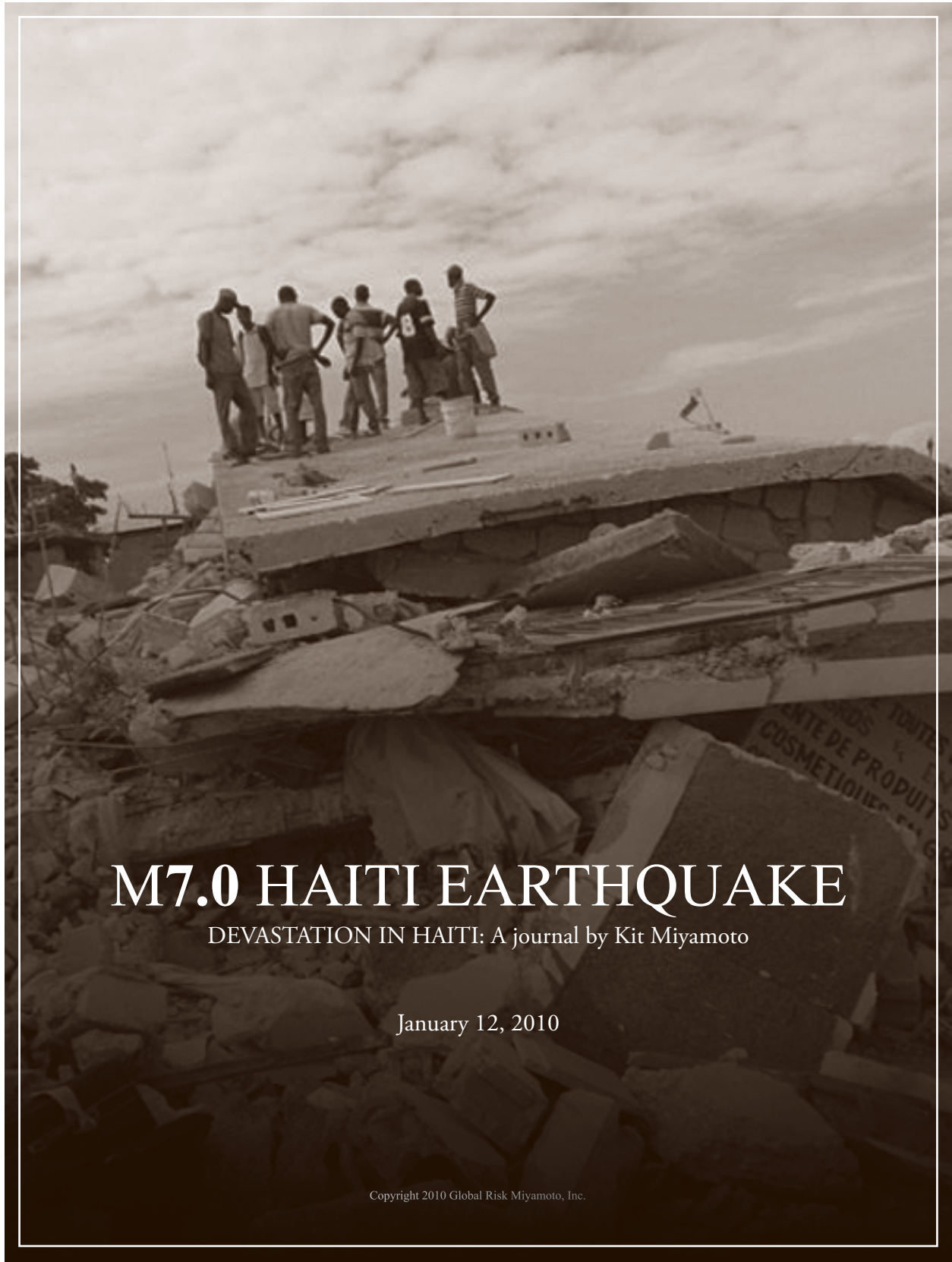


JANUARY 12, 2010 M7.0 HAITI EARTHQUAKE



M7.0 HAITI EARTHQUAKE

DEVASTATION IN HAITI: A journal by Kit Miyamoto

January 12, 2010

Copyright 2010 Global Risk Miyamoto, Inc.

Dispatch Release

January 18, 2010, Los Angeles, CA – Structural and Earthquake Engineer, Kit Miyamoto departed for Haiti with the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF). Miyamoto will provide structural engineering expertise to support PADF disaster relief efforts in Haiti.

“From my experience with disaster sites, together with the pressing scale of the humanitarian needs in Haiti, there will be limited resources to provide high level structural/earthquake engineering expertise. Providing this expertise is a key component of disaster response and it is very time critical,” said Miyamoto, CEO of Miyamoto International and Global Risk Miyamoto. Miyamoto will assess structural stability of damaged structures; identify safe access for PADF personnel; and assess the overall structural damage conditions and how these lessons may apply to other countries.

PADF, a natural disaster relief arm of the Organization of American States (OAS), is a non-profit organization working in Haiti. PADF is sending emergency relief supplies including food, tools, telecommunications equipment and more, to contribute to the relief effort. PADF will be working with civil protection authorities, the private sector and community organizations to provide immediate and long-term assistance.

Returning to Port au Prince and Soft-Story Failures

Journal Entry #5

January 23, 2010

Port au Prince, Haiti — I am back in Port au Prince and catching up on emails at 2 a.m. I have an appointment with the UN operations team at 7 a.m. So far, it's been a like our first visit: a hard, tiring day in the field and communication with the office in California after midnight.

I must admit that I'm torn about returning to Port au Prince. On one hand, it's a long distance and a long time apart from my family. (It is my birthday, after all.) On the other hand, it's exciting, adventurous work that can really make a difference in Haiti. We're also matching our firm's strategic vision with very rewarding work.

They need our expertise desperately. We're helping save lives.

On the morning of our first damage assessment inspection tour we visit the Customs Administration building. It's an interesting case study. Our team met with Customs officials



Ground-floor damage: Here is a photo of the damage to ground-floor columns at the Customs Building.

in front of the building. Right away I notice one of the ground-floor concrete columns has badly ruptured. Indicative of a classic soft-story failure, I know all the ground-floor columns will have similar damage.

The ground floor is high ceilinged and has a great deal of open space. This design caused the floor to be weak, so the major damage is concentrated here.

At first, the others think it's just a casual crack since the building is intact. One young official says, "We would like to move back into this building. It is very important for us." I reply, astonished, "It looks like minor damage, but it isn't. This is a severe case of collapse hazard. The columns have lost all gravity-carrying capacity and large aftershocks may bring this building down."

Everyone listens attentively. I don't think they'll return anytime soon.

Later, a government official asks us to return to the Presidential Palace. (We inspected the Palace on a prior visit—noted in my previous journal entry.) Officials are starting to retrieve valuables from the damaged structure and they want us around to monitor the situation.



We meet a team of officials, similar to our last visit, except this time there are women in the group. Guilaine whispers in my ear, "These ladies are the president's family members... so don't screw up!"

Retrieving valuables: The first family returned to the Presidential Palace to get some of their belongings. I helped uncover a suitcase that was buried under a crumbled brick wall.

Under my supervision, the first family begins to gather their important belongings. I help to dig out a suitcase that is under a collapsed brick wall. As we leave the Palace a woman says to me, "Today, you are my hero."

Next we drive to a recently constructed, four-story hotel, uptown. I meet the owners on the lush, peaceful grounds of the hotel. They offer me a Coke—a rare commodity—and I gladly accept.

On the inspection tour of the shattered hotel we notice that most of the second floor is badly damaged by a soft-story collapse.

"I gave 10 years of my life to creating and building this hotel. We've been open for two years and now the earthquake has ruined everything," the owner says to me.

JANUARY 12, 2010 M7.0 HAITI EARTHQUAKE



(above) The hotel: Evidence of damage can be seen in the facade's lower columns while the extensive second-floor damage is obvious (below).



“Don’t worry,” I reply. “The damages are limited to the non-bearing concrete block walls. You should be able to fix this.” He seems encouraged by the assessment.

The hotel is closed to the public, but some journalists are staying in the undamaged conference building and the restaurant is also open. The owner invites us all to lunch.

JANUARY 12, 2010 M7.0 HAITI EARTHQUAKE

After a traditional Haitian goat-meat lunch I'm surprised with a birthday cake. Apparently Guilaine has spilled the beans. They even sing "Happy Birthday" to me.

Such a kind gesture from someone who has seen his decade-long dream come crumbling down. His smile is warm and he is doing his best to treat me—a foreigner—in the best way possible.

I'll forever remember this Port au Prince birthday.

End of Journal Entry #5



(above) Security: The security presence is still prevalent in Port au Prince.

(right) Palace roof: We took some time to follow up on our first inspection of the Palace roof.



About Global Risk Miyamoto and Miyamoto International

Global Risk Miyamoto is a joint venture formed by Global Risk Consultants, the worldwide leader in unbundled property loss control, and Miyamoto International, one of the largest structural engineering firms in California. The company was formed specifically to provide corporations and public agencies with accurately quantified site-specific risk identification and loss expectancies resulting from natural hazard perils such as earthquakes, windstorms, hurricanes, typhoons, and floods.

Miyamoto International provides structural, earthquake and wind engineering services related to the design and strengthening of buildings. Project sectors include: seismic evaluation and retrofit, education, commercial, civic, corporate, healthcare and infrastructure. With six offices on the west coast and international offices in Tokyo, Japan, and Istanbul, Turkey, Miyamoto International is one of the largest structural engineering firms in the United States.

For more information, contact:

Tom Chan, 925-284-3700 x111
tchan@grmcat.com

or

Chris Heaton, 214-636-4474
chris.heaton@globalriskconsultants.com

www.grmcat.com