



## **Organizers' COVID-19 countermeasures at the 17th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering (17WCEE)**

At the venue, infection prevention measures are being taken in accordance with Sendai City's guidelines to ensure that all participants can attend the conference safely and securely.

### **1. Social distancing**

- ◆ The layout in the venue will be arranged to ensure that the distance between chairs is at least 1 meter.
- ◆ In the main hall, there will be one empty seat between seats that can be used, and there will be labels on the seats that cannot be used.
- ◆ In crowded areas such as the reception area, floor stickers will be affixed to indicate the distance that should be maintained by participants.
- ◆ The use of elevators is prohibited in principle, except for use in special circumstances.
- ◆ Acrylic panels will be placed at the reception desk, lunchroom, break spaces, and secretariat to prevent droplet infections.

### **2. Disinfection, cleaning, and ventilation**

- ◆ Participants will be reminded to wash and disinfect their hands regularly, and to practice general hygiene such as proper coughing and sneezing etiquette.
- ◆ At the session rooms, alcohol disinfectant will be used on microphones and podiums when speakers change.
- ◆ Hand sanitizer will be placed at the entrances to the Sendai International Center, conference rooms, and restrooms.
- ◆ Reception equipment will be disinfected on a regular basis.
- ◆ Disinfecting staff will be assigned to the lunchroom and break areas as needed and carry out proper disinfection.
- ◆ All venues will be ventilated using air conditioners and ventilation fans.

### **3. Eating and drinking spaces**

- ◆ Eating spaces will only be designated by the organizer, and silent eating will be encouraged.
- ◆ Coffee breaks will be held in the same venue as the lunchroom.
- ◆ In other spaces, only drinking beverages for the purpose of rehydration will be allowed.
- ◆ No trash cans will be set up, and all trash must be taken home by the participants.

### **4. Health of general participants and management of their movements**

- ◆ Temperature checks will be conducted at the entrance of the Sendai International Center.
- ◆ Participants who have a fever with a temperature more than 1 degree above normal (37.5°C) will not be allowed to enter the venue.
- ◆ If more people than the number of seats available enter a session room, the staff will refuse entry and ask the participants to participate online.
- ◆ A system to track who enters and leaves each room has been introduced. Management will be conducted by having participants scan a QR code when entering and leaving each room.

(Aimed at all visitors to the Sendai International Center, including participants, organizers, and staff)

## **5. Response to staff and contractors**

- ◆ If staff members or contractors have a fever with a temperature more than 1 degree above normal (37.5°C), or if they feel unwell such as coughing or breathlessness, even if it is mild, they will refrain from coming to the venue.

### **<Staff>**

- ◆ Every morning before they come to the venue, staff will be asked to fill out a health conditions questionnaire, including on their body temperature.
- ◆ Antigen tests for staff will be conducted before entering the venue with confirmation that they test negative.

### **<Contractors entering and exiting the venue>**

- ◆ A list of workers and staff will be prepared and managed both during venue set-up and removal times as well as on the days of the conference.
- ◆ Workers will be required to check their own health conditions, including temperature checks.

## **6. Other**

- ◆ Signs will be made to inform participants about major infection prevention measures and call for the prevention of infections.
- ◆ In order to prevent infections, each participant will be asked to carry his or her own event bag and other items instead of handing them over.
- ◆ Participants will be asked to take care of their own baggage as much as possible, and cloakrooms will not be set up.
- ◆ Presenters are required to wear masks while giving presentations at the podium.
- ◆ The use of hand dryers in the restrooms is prohibited.