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March 14, 2011

Dear AIB Members,

As all of you are well aware, a 9.0 magnitude earthquake occurred on March 11th, hitting northern Japan. This was an earthquake of historic proportions (5th largest on record) followed by a series of devastating tsunamis and aftershocks.

The AIB Executive Board would like to express our sorrow and sympathies for the people in Japan and particularly to our local colleagues. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they continue the rescue and recovery efforts in the devastated regions.

We have received a number of enquiries from our members regarding the AIB 2011 conference scheduled to be held in Nagoya at the end of June. At this point in time, AIB remains fully committed to holding the conference at Nagoya.

While Nagoya also felt the impact, it is quite a distance from the epicenter of the earthquake (about 550 kilometers). As such, there has been minimal impact on its infrastructure. All public transportation and public utility services remain fully functional. When Tokyo's airports were shut down for a brief period of time (and they are operational now), flights were actually redirected to the Nagoya airport which remained open throughout the incident.

Of course, the health and safety of our members are our primary concern. Therefore, we will continue to monitor the situation, in particular the developments regarding the nuclear plants. We are constantly monitoring several sources of information, including news organizations, nuclear power agencies, authoritative blogs, and the World Health Organization briefings. Our understanding at this point in time is that the current situation does not pose any danger whatsoever to Nagoya and only under the most pessimistic scenarios would that situation change.

Finally, a word of caution: Unfortunately, whenever such a big disaster strikes, unscrupulous individuals find it as an opportunity to exploit the situation. There have already been reports of scams of such individuals seeking online donations. If you would like to donate for the relief efforts, please limit your donations to well-known organizations. Such organizations include:

- [International Medical Corps](#)
- [Global Giving Foundation](#)
- [International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies](#)

Please note that AIB does not officially endorse any specific organization, the organizations listed above are only provided as reference.

We believe that the next few days will reveal whether there will be a need for AIB to formally reassess the situation. We will communicate with our membership if such a need arises. Meanwhile, we encourage all members to continue planning for the conference to be held in Nagoya as scheduled and to keep the Japanese people in their thoughts.

The AIB Executive Board