

Kenji Satake

Kenji Satake is a professor and the director of Earthquake Research Institute, the University of Tokyo.

He obtained BS and MS from Hokkaido University and Ph.D. from the University of Tokyo. He has held research and teaching positions in Tokyo Institute of Technology, California Institute of Technology, the University of Michigan, Geological Survey of Japan, before joining the University of Tokyo.

His research interests are giant earthquakes and tsunamis in the world, for which he uses geophysical, geological and historical approaches. In geophysical approach, he developed a tsunami waveform inversion method which combines instrumentally recorded tsunami waveforms and computer simulation to estimate the tsunami generation and propagation processes. In geological and historical approaches, he uses sand deposit brought by past tsunami or historical literature describing damage to infer the earthquakes and tsunamis in the past, such as the 1700 Cascadia earthquake.

He is an American Geophysical Union fellow (class of 2010), was President (2012–2014) of Asia and Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS), and currently the editor-in-chief of Geoscience Letters, the official journal of AOGS.

He was the chair of IUGG (International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics) Tsunami Commission from 2003 to 2011, during which period the 2004 Indian Ocean and 2011 Tohoku tsunamis occurred. He served as a Bureau member of IUGG from 2011 to 2015. He was elected as the President of IASPEI for 2019–2023.