

Government plans should be more flexible with adapting the latest technology

Yoshiyasu Takefuji

Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) systems are being implemented in several countries where the warning time would range from a few seconds to tens of seconds. The short warning time is used primarily for controlling elevators, trains, and others in public. The earthquake warning in public was manually broadcasted by TV and radio stations. However, after the magnitude-9 Tohoku earthquake on March 11 of 2011 in Japan, the earthquake alert Apps have been available through the mobile phone networks in Japan. Paul Voosen wrote an article entitled "Moments to spare" (1). An early warning system has been in development for more than a decade in the US, with some local agencies, including Metro and the mayor's office in Los Angeles, already using the real-time alert data. But the United States Geological Survey (USGS) had lacked the funds to create an app the public can use (2). However, the earthquake alert Apps will be available soon in US (3). Government plans should be more flexible with adapting the latest technology by mobile phones with internet access and the earthquake warning delivery Apps instead of using expensive dedicated EEW network systems and wireless receivers. We should stop wasting taxpayer money.

References:

1. Paul Voosen, Moments to spare, Science 02 Nov 2018: Vol. 362, Issue 6414, pp. 514-517
2. <https://la.curbed.com/2018/1/16/16885874/earthquake-early-warning-app-northridge>
3. <https://www.newsweek.com/when-next-big-one-earthquake-app-will-finally-give-us-early-warning-system-772444>