

Commission on Earth Structure and Geodynamics

Commission Report 2007-2008: IUGG/IASPEI General Assembly Meeting in Perugia, Italy, 2-13 July, 2007

The Commission on Earth Structure and Geodynamics sponsored two joint sessions JSS011 (*Earth Structure and Geodynamics*: 94 abstracts submitted) and JSS012 (*Dynamics of Deep Mantle Slabs*: 31 abstracts submitted) with co-sponsorship by IAGA, IAG, IAVCEI, ILP, and SEDI. Commission co-chair Thorne Lay took primary responsibility for organizing JSS011, while JSS012 was organized by Hitoshi Kawakatsu. These sessions were presented in two poster sessions and 4 ½ day oral sessions. Unfortunately, scheduling constraints led to running the two sessions concurrently on the second day. The topics addressed spanned the full scope of the Commission's interests, ranging from large-scale lithospheric dynamics to upper mantle structure and thermal evolution, to deep mantle mineral physics and seismology, and on to inner core structure. The oral sessions and poster sessions were very well attended, with JSS011 having audiences varying from 85 to 170 people.

The oral session presentations went very smoothly, but as was true of other sessions, the printed schedule distributed for the talks was in order of abstract submission rather than listing the session as organized by the conveners. This proved very confusing and disruptive; a decision was made to adhere to the schedule that had been arranged with the speakers, as they tended to show up as scheduled by the convener rather than following the chronological listing. The on-line entry of the schedule on the web site by the convener appears to have been lost by the computer system, and the order of abstracts in the schedule was reset to the alphabetical list without the conveners being aware of it. This happened for other sessions as well, unless the convener happened to check the on-line schedule just before the meeting and to re-load the organized listing.

No formal meeting of the commission was conducted due to the scheduling confusion, but a brief open discussion clarified that no specific effort would be made to develop a special journal issue based on the joint sessions. Planning for the 2009 Cape Town Assembly was subsequently coordinated between the commission co-chairs, with Greg Houseman taking responsibility for the primary contact for that meeting scheduling.