

Activities of the Working Group "Reference Events for Improved Locations" (WG-REIL) since the IASPEI meetings of 2007 in Perugia, Italy:

Our principal activity has been the development and implementation of a website, hosted by the ISC, to which reference events may be submitted. The ISC also makes available the catalogue of reference events, on request via this same website, which is <http://www.isc.ac.uk/services/reference/reference.html>

The statement of purpose of this ISC activity and a comment on the role of the working group is given at the website as follows:

"The International Seismological Centre prepares and maintains a database of a set of earthquakes and explosions for which hypocentre information (Latitude, Longitude, Depth) is known with high confidence (to 10km or better (GT10)) and whose seismic signals have been recorded at regional and/or teleseismic distances. We want to facilitate and accelerate a global effort to build and validate a significantly large set of reference events that, in turn, will be used for better visualization of the structure of the Earth, better modelling of velocities of seismic waves, more accurate travel time determinations and increased accuracy of hypocentre locations.

...

"This web page is designed to receive information about candidate seismic events to be included in the database of reference events. The information will be reviewed by members of the IASPEI Working Group on Reference Events for Improved Location - WG-REIL. " This work at ISC has been led by Istvan Bondar. We appreciate his efforts, as well as the willingness of the ISC to host this activity.

Reference events may be submitted one-by-one at the website, or in larger batches directly to ISC.

Our working group now consists of Bob Engdahl and Paul Richards, co-chairs and the following members (together with their affiliations and main area of expertise):

Istvan Bondar, International Seismological Centre, implementation of the web site and development of criteria for confidence in estimates of location accuracy

Kiyoshi Suyehiro, Japan Marine Science and Technology Center (JAMSTEC), expertise with ocean-bottom networks

Rowena Lohman, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, InSAR

Liu Ruifeng, China Earthquake Administration, seismicity of China

Joachim Saul, GeoForschungsZentrum (GFZ) Potsdam, seismicity from temporary networks

Francis Wu, State University of New York, Binghamton, seismicity of Kanto region, Japan, Taiwan and Himalayan regions

Godey Stephanie, European Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC), European and Mediterranean regions

Andy Nyblade, Penn State University, African networks

Diana Comte, University of Chile, South American networks

Bob Engdahl's research in the last two years has included the identification of many more reference events in the Middle East, in particular in Iran.

Paul Richards' research in the last two years has included a project to identify reference events in the parts of North America that lie East of the Rocky Mountains. We plan to hold a meeting of the Working Group on Tuesday evening, January 13 in Cape Town during the IASPEI sessions.

Now that the WG has an ISC-endorsed website, the main activities of the WG are likely to be
(1) inviting specific individuals or institutions to submit reference events, and
(2) evaluating submissions.

At the Cape Town meeting, we may develop a recommendation on the end date of these formal activities of the WG.