

IASPEI Commission for Rapid Interdisciplinary Investigation of Significant Earthquakes

## Newsletters

Vol.1 no.2 December 16, 2025

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★ Season's Greetings! ★



Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

May the Christmas bring peace and happiness to you and your colleagues around the world!

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### 105 years ago today

On this day 105 years ago, December 16, 1920, an earthquake measuring 8.5 on the magnitude scale struck Haiyuan in Ningxia, China. Following the disaster, Weng Wen-hao, then director of the Central Institute of the Geological Survey, led a team to conduct on-site investigations. Upon returning, he authored a field report and research papers, which are considered to mark the beginning of earthquake studies in China using modern scientific methods by Chinese scientists, and is also recognized as the first earthquake scientific investigation conducted in China.

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***Readers' Voice***

We are delighted to share responses from our readers regarding the establishment of RI<sup>2</sup>SE and its mission. Their insights and encouragement inspire us to move forward with greater commitment.

**From Prantik Mandal:**

Many thanks for sharing the November 2025 issue of the RI<sup>2</sup>SE Newsletter and for your efforts as Secretary of the Commission. The newsletter provides a very clear and timely overview of how RI<sup>2</sup>SE has emerged from the IASPEI resolution and the IAGA–IASPEI Joint Assembly, and it is encouraging to see the strong emphasis on rapid, interdisciplinary investigation of significant earthquakes, drawing together seismology, geodesy, geology, geo-electromagnetics, geochemistry, and the social sciences. The historical perspective on Chinese contributions to coordinated post-earthquake field investigations—from the 1966 Xingtai and 1975 Haicheng events through to Kunlun (2001) and more recent disasters—nicely illustrates how systematically captured perishable data can fundamentally advance earthquake science and inform forecasting and hazard mitigation strategies. The description of the Feasibility Report and the IASPEI resolution also highlights that RI<sup>2</sup>SE now provides a formal global platform for planning and sharing such rapid studies, which is a particularly important development in the context of recent large events in Türkiye–Syria, Dingri, and Myanmar.

I am pleased to remain on the RI<sup>2</sup>SE mailing list, and I would be happy to contribute ideas or support future activities where my experience with rapid post-earthquake investigations and induced seismicity may be of use.

With best regards,

Prantik

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**From Mohamed ElGabry:**

Thank you very much for sharing the November 2025 issue of the RI<sup>2</sup>SE Newsletter. I truly appreciate your initiative in leading the creation of the newsletter.

I am looking forward to our first group meeting—perhaps online—so that we can collectively discuss the dynamics of activating the workgroup and explore how best to coordinate activities and communications moving forward. I believe this will help ensure that the newsletter and other initiatives fully reflect the group's priorities and engagement.

Thank you again for your efforts, and I look forward to working together to strengthen the group's activities.

Best regards,

Mohamed

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