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SZDC E-Newsletter

Electronic Newsletter of the IASPEI-IAVCEI Working Group on Subduction  
Zones Located in Developing Countries

Vol. 1, no.1, June 23, 2004

The first issue of this Newsletter is currently kept in a simple format  
(1) to initially inform members of current activities of the working  
group and (2) to provide an avenue to its members to convey ideas for  
informal discussion.

The format of this newsletter would further improve as suggestions and  
articles from its members are accommodated.

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Premiere Issue of the SZDC Newsletter

by Raymond Maximo

Welcome to the first issue of the Electronic Newsletter of the IASPEI-  
IAVCEI Working Group on Subduction Zones Located in Developing  
Countries. The Philippine members have decided to start, host and  
maintain this electronic newsletter. Matters discussed during a meeting  
of the Philippine members were included in this very first E-Newsletter  
of the SZLDC-WG. We would welcome contributions from other members of  
this group regarding their current research and activities in their  
own home.

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SZDC Planning Meeting in Quezon City, Philippines

by Jane Punongbayan

Researchers of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology
(PHIVOLCS) who are members of or are interested in joining the IASPEI-
IAVCEI Working Group on Subduction Zones Located in Developing
Countries (SZDC-WG) were convened by Mr. Raymond Patrick Maximo, acting
secretary of the WG, in order to start brainstorm possible activities
of the WG.

The meeting was held on 22 June 2004 at the PHIVOLCS Headquarters located in Quezon City, Philippines. The meeting was attended by Mr. Raymond Patrick Maximo, Mr. Ishmael Narag, Dr. Bartolome Bautista, Dr. Leonila Bautista, Dr. Jessie Daligdig, Ms. Mylene Villegas, Ms. Hannah Mirabueno, Ms. Mabel Abigania, Engr. Rhommel Grutas and Dr. Jane Punongbayan.

Activities of the Working Group

Mr. Maximo briefly discussed the creation of the SZDC WG in Hanoi Vietnam in 2001 and the different activities carried out by the WG since then. The past years were spent organizing the WG using seed money provided by IASPEI and IAVCEI. Group Leader Dr. Sri Widiyantoro (Indonesia) was sent to different scientific gatherings to promote and organize the WG. He convened a group of scientists in the 2002 IAVCEI Meeting in Martinique. A significant contingent was gathered during the 23rd IUGG Meeting in Sapporo, Japan in 2003. During the meeting, members were informed of the aims of the working group, contact e-mail addresses and working group mailing list (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/szdc-wg>)

It was then that Mr. Maximo (Philippines) volunteered to act as WG Secretary and created a webpage for the group. This is currently hosted by the PHIVOLCS web server (<http://www.phivolcs.dost.gov.ph/Research/WebDesign/index.htm>). Dr. Widiyantoro and Mr. Maximo manned a booth promoting the SZDC during the December 2003 Fall Meeting of the AGU in San, Francisco, California where they distributed brochures and leaflets about the working group and met with Bob Engdahl (USA) and Peter Suhadolc (Italy). Dr. Widiyantoro also met with Steve McNutt (USA), Secretary General of IAVCEI, to discuss activities of the WG.

Mr. Maximo reminded the PHIVOLCS attendees of the next business meeting during IAVCEI meeting in Chile on November 2004.

Possible Fields of Study

Mr. Maximo enumerated and identified the following as possible fields of studies encompassed by the SZDC-WG: volcanology, seismology, tsunami, arc magmatism, slab modeling, and hazards related to volcanic eruptions and earthquakes.

Issues and Discussions

Two major issues were discussed during the meeting.

1) Membership of the working group:

The question on who could become members of the WG was raised by the attendees. The name of the working group implies not only geographical/geophysical but also economical limits to its areas of concern. Definition of "developing countries" was proposed to be made clear to everybody. Indonesia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Costa Rica, Chile, Argentina, Romania and Italy (?) among others were identified as possible members of the working group.

2) Proposed take-off activity in the form of a symposium/workshop:

Dr. Bautista presented the idea of a symposium or a workshop as a major take-off activity for the WG. The attendees proposed and agreed that to encourage future collaboration between researchers for subduction zones in developing countries, the activity should be a venue for both (1) the assessment of the current state of SZ research of the different developing countries involved and (2) the introduction of advanced techniques and other possible studies.

One major concern for this symposium is the focus of the scientific discussions. Should the symposium be focused in only one field of study (e.g., slab modeling via tomography) or should the invited experts represent all possible studies?

After considering the main objectives of the activity, expected costs of the activities, possible composition of attendees and availability/lack of resources, the attendees agreed to make a proposal for a symposium as detailed below:

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Title: International Symposium on Subduction Zones Located in Developing Countries.

Proposed date: February 2005

Objectives:

1. To discuss the organizational structure of the working group.
2. To present the current state of research of participants from developing countries.
3. To identify possible areas of collaborative research between the different countries.
4. To develop a 5-year comprehensive plan of activities for the SZDC-WG.

Each developing country with subduction zones are expected to participate in this event. But this raises the question on who shall represent each country.

Experts from developed countries who are interested in conducting collaborative research works on subduction zones along developing countries are also encouraged to attend and share their expertise.

The symposium will be divided into two major parts: (1) a series of lectures of experts in various fields and country reports of participants and (2) a planning workshop. The venue, length and other details of the symposium should be discussed further by all active members of the working group and the IASPEI, IAVCEI and IUGG.

Philippines is willing to host this activity. The PHIVOLCS headquarters in Quezon City has an audio-visual room equipped with facilities for a symposium. In January 2003, the IASPEI Working Group on Electromagnetic Studies for Earthquakes and Volcanoes (EMSEV) conducted an international workshop there. PHIVOLCS could also accommodate at least 14 participants in its "Magma Chambers", a modest lodging for visiting scientists at a negligible price.

Participants could also have a pre- and/or post-symposium visit to scenic Taal Volcano and Mount Pinatubo.

Contributions and queries to this newsletter are encouraged; announcements, discussion topics and other matters related to the working group may be forwarded to the editor of the newsletter. Please send e-mails to rmaximo@phivolcs.dost.gov.ph