



## **Disaster in Japan: Messages from IASPEI and IUGG**

IASPEI shares the deep sympathy of IUGG for the loss of life and property caused by the devastating M8.9 earthquake and tsunami. IASPEI would like to share the burden with you, one of the best seismological teams in the world, in the related scientific works and international cooperation.

With warm regards,

Zhongliang Wu, IASPEI President (2007-2011)  
Peter Suhadolc, IASPEI Secretary General

### **FROM IUGG:**

Dear Members of the Japanese National Committee for Geodesy and Geophysics, dear Colleagues and Friends, At this dramatic and most difficult time for your country, when Japan was struck by the most powerful earthquake and devastating tsunami (ever recorded for the last century in Japan), the IUGG Bureau expresses its deep sympathy to the Japanese nation and those who lost their life for these disasters.

Because of preventive management of natural disasters by the Japanese government and proper science education of the population living with risk by Japanese scientists, the country met the great release of the Earth's stress somehow well prepared, even though the event was unexpected in such a huge magnitude. We appreciate the efforts of all of you and many other geoscientists in your country who worked with the government on mitigation of natural disasters. Japan has been a great supporter of international efforts and the knowledge of tsunami behavior that has been gained by Japanese scientists, and implemented through tsunami warning systems, has helped to minimize the effects of the disaster in other parts of the Pacific and elsewhere.

IUGG and IASPEI are discussing with the Local Organizing Committee of the XXVth General Assembly of IUGG to hold a special ("last minute") session on the 11th March M8.9 earthquake in Japan.

Moreover, IUGG will hold a Union symposium on natural hazards and disasters organized by Kuni Takeuchi and several other IUGG experts in the framework of the ICSU project "Extreme Natural Events and Societal Implications". The last earthquake and tsunami are those belonging to extreme natural events, and we hope to discuss these extremes at this symposium as well as at the Open Forum which follows.

We wish you, your families, colleagues, and the Japanese nation a speedy recovery from these disasters. We are with you at this difficult time.

On behalf of the IUGG Bureau,

Tom Beer, IUGG President  
Alik Ismail-Zadeh, IUGG Secretary-General