



Seismologists must have long memories! To many of you I will be an unfamiliar face, and I must confess that this is the first Assembly I have attended this century, but the older among you will remember that I was closely involved with all those in the last three decades of the last century. I am delighted to find here so many old friends who are still so active in our science.

My New Zealand roots have been a great help in my career. Earthquakes were never strange to me - I grew up feeling them - and as a 12-year old boy I experienced two intensity seven shocks six weeks apart. Another advantage was that being in a small country with only few seismologists, I had to become involved in all aspects of our science, observational, theoretical, engineering, social and political, so I entered my association with IASPEI with a broad knowledge, without too much specialisation in any one aspect - a seismological “Jack of all trades, but master of none”. Also growing up in a small, remote, country I appreciated the difficulties of fellow seismologists in similar countries with currency and resource limitations. Finally, during my time working in IASPEI it helped that although I was based in Europe I was still thought of as New Zealander, without the disadvantage of being associated with a major power.

Similarly, being based at the International Seismological Centre was a great advantage, with more freedom by not being bound by allegiance to any particular country, and I am particularly grateful to ISC for allowing me to combine my work there with duties for IASPEI, which did go together well, I hope with mutual benefit to both organisations. I am delighted to see that under the leadership of Dmitry Storchak ISC is now moving into new fields of activity, not just continuing the tradition of providing the final end point of global analysis, but participating in the development of modern seismology.

My first serious research was a study of deep New Zealand earthquakes, for which I relied heavily on readings from Scandinavia. This led to my first visit to Sweden in 1964 to visit Marcus Båth at Uppsala, and to my research interest in the structure of the core. In those days there were only very few of us interested in the core, but prominent among them, of course, was my old friend and colleague Bob Engdahl, with whom I have had a most fruitful association ever since. Bob has made an unrivalled contribution to IASPEI, having held all major offices, by my reckoning he served 28 years on the IASPEI Executive, and I feel that it could well be he, not I, standing here today.

I have not recently been as actively engaged in seismology as previously, but I still remember and value the bonds and friendships that developed among us – we used to be so few in number that we all knew each other and our families well, and wherever we travelled in the world we knew we would be welcomed by friends.

During my career I was particularly associated with three contemporaries, who were also colleagues and close friends – Bruce Bolt, Stephan Müller and Nick Ambraseys - the first two

being Presidents of our Association. Sadly all are now dead, and as the surviving one I dedicate this award to them and earlier generations of seismologists, who laid the foundations on which our science and our Association continue to grow and flourish.

Robin Adams

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