

International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior

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Seismographic Station
Department of Geology and Geophysics
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California 94720
U.S.A.

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Moscow 123 242
U.S.S.R.

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Geophysical Institute
Tohoku University
Sendai 980
JAPAN

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Dr. R. D. Adams
International Seismological Centre
Newbury RG13 1LX
Berkshire, UNITED KINGDOM
Cable Address: SEISMO NEWBURY
Telex: 849303 SEISMO G

In your reply refer to our ref:

NEWSLETTER NO. 2 AUGUST 1980

TO: National Correspondents, Officers and Representatives of the Association and related organizations.

In this Newsletter, I want to report on matters of interest to IASPEI that have arisen since the first issue in March. The Bureau met at Newbury in May, and although the main business concerned the programme for the 1981 Assembly, there were wide discussions on the Association's affairs in general.

Please remember that I would be glad to include in future Newsletters items of interest from National Correspondents, Commission Chairmen and other people. The frequency with which the Newsletter appears will depend on the material available.

Robin Adams

R D Adams
Secretary-General

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, LONDON, ONTARIO 21-30 JULY 1981

Plans are progressing well for this Assembly. Professor Alan Beck, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, met with the Bureau in May when many details of the programme were worked out.

Scientific sessions planned now include:

- Digital seismometry and the use of digital seismic data
- Structure of the Arctic
- Earthquake prediction and risk
- Reports on recent earthquakes
- Heterogeneity in the Earth's boundary layers
- Heterogeneity in the Earth's lithosphere
- Standards in Geothermics
- Earthquake ground motions and their effects on critical structures
- Thermal evolution of the Earth
- Thermal aspects of plate interactions
- Quantification of earthquakes
- Methodology for estimating earthquake parameters
- Properties of materials at high pressures and temperatures
- Mechanics of the earthquake source

In addition the Commission on Controlled Source Seismology will arrange a specialised workshop either during or immediately before the Assembly. The final day of the Assembly will feature a symposium on "Teaching and Research in Geophysics in Developing Countries" which is being arranged at the suggestion of Professor Ashour, Chairman of the IUGG Committee for Advice to Developing Countries.

The local organizing committee will make a formal call for papers later this year and will circulate the full list of convenors.

Provision can be made for small meetings of Commissions and Working Groups, and a full programme of evening and social events is being planned.

People with specific enquiries should get in touch with:

Prof A E Beck
Dept of Geophysics
University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario
CANADA, N6A 5B7

GLOBAL SEISMIC DATA BANK

The creation of such a bank, to cater for scientific, industrial and educational needs, was proposed at the Durham Assembly of IASPEI in 1977. Subsequently, UNESCO has convened two meetings of experts, the second in March 1980, to discuss a feasibility study undertaken by Dr Vit Karnik earlier this year. Dr Karnik's report suggested ways in which the basic file of earthquake parameters could be improved on a world-wide scale, leading to one master catalogue of events. The Bank is envisaged to be complementary to national and regional agencies. Dr Karnik recommended that the best situation for the Bank would be for it to be attached to the International Seismological Centre, but financially independent.

UNESCO has been asked to seek financial support from appropriate United Nations agencies in order to implement at least the initial stages of the project.

CHINESE INVITATIONS

During the third meeting of the UNESCO/UNDRO Advisory Committee on Earthquake Risk, held in Geneva in April 1980, Dr Ma Xing-yuang announced that the Chinese authorities wished to make an area near Beijing and Tangshan available as a site for international earthquake studies. The area is approximately that bounded by $38^{\circ} - 40^{\circ}N$, $114^{\circ} - 120^{\circ}E$.

The Chinese also proposed that an international symposium on earthquake studies be held in China in the early autumn of 1982, with the participation of 50 to 100 foreign scientists. Advice and financial support is being sought from international organizations such as UNESCO, UNDRO and IASPEI.

HISTORY OF IASPEI

Prof Rothé, Honorary Secretary-General of the Association since his retirement from the Bureau in 1971, has completed a history of the first 50 years of IASPEI - to 1951. A translation into English has been made, and a suitable journal is being sought in which this may be published. It is hoped that Prof Rothé's original French text will be published in Gerland's Beiträge. We are fortunate that Prof Rothé has been able to call on his intimate knowledge of the Association's early days, to document its development, and its difficulties in two world wars.

BCIS LIBRARY, STRASBOURG

There are plans for the library of the former Bureau Central International de Séismologie at Strasbourg, which contains a valuable collection of early station bulletins, as well as other seismological literature, to be rehoused in a renovated building, with reading room, in the Botanical Gardens of the University of Strasbourg, a few hundred metres from its present location.

EARTHQUAKE PREDICTION RESEARCH

This topic was discussed at length at the meeting of the Advisory Committee on Earthquake Risk held in April 1980, with particular interest being shown in South America. The suggestion that a major earthquake might be expected in Peru in 1981 is focussing sociological as well as scientific interest on this region, and the Committee recommended that events there be carefully observed and fully documented. An opportunity for a further evaluation of this situation will be available at the International Seminar on Earthquake Prediction and Evaluation of Seismic Risk, to be held in Argentina 20-25 October 1980. UNESCO and UNDRO were asked by the Advisory Committee to help promote a complete compilation of case histories of earthquake predictions.

INTER-UNION COMMISSION ON THE LITHOSPHERE

Plans are advancing for the establishment of this Commission (ICL) by ICSU, at the request of IUGG and IUGS, to carry out the programme "Dynamics and Evolution of the Lithosphere: The Framework for Earth Resources and the Reduction of Hazards", that was discussed at an open meeting at the Canberra Assembly last December.

The programme is planned to run for 10 years, and the new Commission will be responsible for its implementation. There will be a Bureau to control the Commission's affairs, and a number of Working Groups and Committees. The Commission will encourage the formation of National Committees in participating countries.

The central theme of the proposed programme is the current state, origin, evolution and dynamics of the lithosphere, with special attention to the continents and their margins.

The major scientific objectives are:

Define and explain the essential differences between continental and oceanic lithospheres;

Measure directly contemporary relative motions of the plates and develop quantitative dynamic models of the mechanisms causing these motions;

Test the hypothesis that the plates move as rigid units and seek explanations of intraplate tectonism and volcanism;

Elucidate the physical and chemical processes that characterize the interactions of plates along common boundaries;

Develop quantitative models of lithospheric evolution.

OBITUARY - SIR EDWARD BULLARD

Sir Edward Bullard died on 3 April 1980 at La Jolla in California, after a long illness.

His geophysical work has spanned many disciplines, but has been particularly involved in the physics of the Earth's interior, including its gravitational and magnetic fields. A special interest was always marine geophysics, where he helped to pioneer sea seismic exploration, and the development of a probe to obtain heat-flow measurements at sea. This work led him to an extensive collaboration with Scripps's Institution of Oceanography at La Jolla. Apart from periods as Professor of Geophysics at the University of Toronto and as Director of the British National Physical Laboratory, his main affiliation has been with the Department of Geodesy and Geophysics at Cambridge University, recently and appropriately renamed the "Bullard Laboratories" of the newly constituted Department of Earth Sciences.

He was a brilliant lecturer, a kind and colourful man and a pioneer of many branches of Earth science.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

The following is a selection of meetings, from September 1980, in the fields of interest of the Association:

- 1980 Sep 8-13 7TH WORLD CONFERENCE ON EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING
Istanbul, Turkey
International Association for Earthquake Engineering
Organizing Secretary, Deprem Arastirma Enstitusu
Yuksel Caddesi 7/B, Ankara, TURKEY
- 1980 Sep 8-18 IDENTIFICATION OF SEISMIC SOURCES
Oslo, Norway
Nato Advanced Study Institute
Dr E S Husebye, NTN/NORSAR, Box 51, Kjeller, NORWAY
- 1980 Oct 1- 2 DESIGN OF DAMS TO RESIST EARTHQUAKES
London, England
Institution of Civil Engineers
7 Great George Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3AA, UK
- 1980 Oct 1- 6 SYMPOSIUM ON GEOTHERMICS AND PETROLOGY
Leningrad, USSR
International Heat Flow Commission
Prof A E Lubimova, Inst. Physics of Earth
Bolshaya Gruzinskaya 10, Moscow, USSR
- 1980 Oct 20-25 INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON EARTHQUAKE PREDICTION AND EVALUATION OF SEISMIC RISK
San Juan, Argentina
INPRES/CERESIS
INPRES, Roger Balet 67 Norte, San Juan, ARGENTINA
- 1980 Dec 3- 6 WORKSHOP ON INSTABILITY IN CONTINUOUS MEDIA AND STATISTICS OF EARTHQUAKE PREDICTION
San Francisco, California, USA
Committee on Mathematical Geophysics
Prof E Nyland, IGPP, UCSD, La Jolla, Ca 92093, USA
- 1980 Dec 8-12 AGU FALL MEETING
San Francisco, California, USA
American Geophysical Union
2000 Florida Avenue NW, Washington DC 20009, USA
- 1981 Jan 5-16 EARLY EVOLUTION OF THE EARTH AND PLANETS
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England
Nato Advanced Study Institute
School of Physics, The University, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK
- 1981 Jan 31-
Feb 3 CONFERENCE ON LARGE EARTHQUAKES
Napier, New Zealand
Royal Society of New Zealand
Geophysics Division, DSIR, Box 1320, Wellington, NEW ZEALAND
- 1981 May 18-23 SECOND SYMPOSIUM ON ANALYSIS OF SEISMICITY AND ON SEISMIC HAZARD
Liblice, Czechoslovakia
ESC and KAPG
Dr V Karnik, Geophysical Institute, Prague, CZECHOSLOVAKIA
- 1983 Aug 15-26 XVIII GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF IUGG
Hamburg, F.R.G.
International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics