



IASPEI NEWSLETTER Dec 2006

Best Wishes to all of the IASPEI family for a healthy and prosperous New Year 2007 on behalf of all the IASPEI Bureau,

*Peter Suhadolc
IASPEI Secretary-General*

Visit the IASPEI Web-page: www.iaspei.org

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1. IUGG General Assembly in Perugia (Italy) 2007

Electronic Abstract Deadline is January 31, 2007

Preparations are continuing for the IUGG General Assembly, July 2 – 13, in Perugia, Italy. The Abstract Deadline for electronic filing is January 31, which is also the deadline for applications for **travel support**. The General Assembly web site (www.iugg2007perugia.it), also accessible from the IUGG home page (www.IUGG.org), includes all the instructions and forms.

The Third Circular, including information on registration fees and reservations for accommodations and field trips, is now posted on the web. It has already been updated from its initial release, so be sure to refresh your screen image of the Circular before printing out the forms.

U.S. Travel Grants to attend the IUGG General Assembly in Perugia

AGU has received a grant from the National Science Foundation to assist the travel of students and young scientists from the United States to participate in the 2007 IUGG General Assembly, including special sessions and symposia for the seven associations of IUGG: IAG, IAGA, IAHS, IAMAS, IAPSO, IASPEI, and IAVCEI. To view the entire scientific program and submit an abstract: <http://www.iugg2007perugia.it/abstracttype.asp>

For general information about the IUGG meeting, see <http://www.iugg2007perugia.it/>

Abstract Submission Deadlines: 31 January 2007

Travel Grant Application Deadline for all sessions: 31 January 2007
Apply at: http://www.agu.org/meetings/STG/iugg_stg.html

2. Past events: ESG2006, ESC and ASC General Assemblies

- ESG2006, Grenoble, 30 August – 1 September, 2006

The Third International Symposium on the effects of Surface Geology on Seismic Motion, has been held in Grenoble from August 30, to September 1, 2006, under the international umbrella of the ESG working group created jointly by IASPEI (International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior) and IAEE (International Association of Earthquake Engineering) two decades ago. Third in the series, following the two previous in Odawara (Japan, 1992), and Yokohama (Japan, 1998), this ESG2006 symposium has been an opportunity to picture both the state-of-the-art and state-of-practice, in the very diverse aspects of ground motion estimation. A number of invited key-note papers, and a large number of "regular" papers as well, depicted the advances and issues in various domains: strong motion data and processing techniques, non-linearity in soils, microtremor techniques, site surveys, numerical simulation, empirical estimates of ground motion and case studies. One ESG peculiarity is also to be built around benchmarking exercises on ground motion prediction. Two such benchmarks have been proposed for ESG2006. the first one has addressed the simulation of ground motion in the peculiar 3D Grenoble basin for local weak and moderate size earthquakes, while the second one investigated the capability of

array noise measurements to provide reliable and robust estimates of the shear wave velocity profile.

In order to favor the exchanges and discussions, it was decided to have only plenary sessions with keynotes, benchmarks, and a few representative oral presentations spanning as much as possible the range of present-day issues in ground motion estimation. All posters have been exposed for the whole 3-day duration.

The numerous written contributions (about 150) are gathered in a two volume Proceedings book (1050 pages for the first volume and about 600 for the second), which can be ordered at the address listed below. They are addressing current issues and future directions concerning the understanding and the prediction of earthquake ground motion, with a special focus on site conditions and effects. This 2 volume set of proceedings is thus reflecting the present status of knowledge on a variety of topics, from upstream to downstream, from the earthquake source to the design motion at specific sites. Volume 1 includes a series of keynote papers and general papers thematically grouped, while volume 2 is mainly dedicated to the outcomes of the two specific benchmarks carried out on the occasion of this symposium

To order ESG2006 proceedings

Laboratoire Central des Ponts et Chaussées

DISTC – Diffusion des Editions

58 Boulevard Lefebvre, F75732 Paris Cedex 15

Telephone : +33 140 435 020 – Fax : +33 140 435 495

Web page : <http://www.lcpc.fr>

- 30th General Assembly of the European Seismological Commission (ESC):

1st ECEES (ESC-EAEE), Geneva, Switzerland

The European Association of Earthquake Engineering (EAEE) and the European Seismological Commission (ESC) have held in common the First European Conference on Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (1st ECEES) - 13th ECEE and the 30th ESC General Assemblies - during 4-6 September 2006 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The conference was well attended by about 1,200 participants.

A comprehensive state-of-the-art volume on topical themes of the conference was published.

A dinner cruise on the Geneva lake was the highlight of social events.

During the ESC General Assembly the ESC Statutes have been extensively revised.

Please see the ESC homepage for details: <www.esc.bgs.ac.uk>

A new ESC Executive Committee was elected at the conference:

President Domenico Giardini

Vice President Gerassimos Papadopoulos

Secretary General Mariano Garcia Fernandez

Assistant Secretary Ina Celic

Past President Claudio Eva
Past Vice-President Jochen Zschau
Members Rami Hofstetter (Israel)
Steinunn Jakobsdottir (Iceland)
Dario Slejko (Italy)
Representatives of IASPEI, EMSC, ORFEUS, ASC and EAEE are also members.
The next general assembly will be held in Hersonissos, Crete (Greece), 7-12 September 2008.

- 6th General Assembly of the Asian Seismological Commission (ASC)

The ASC General Assembly was held in Bangkok, Thailand, during 6-8 November 2006.
The conference was hosted by the Thai Meteorological Department in the Siam City Hotel.
About 250 participants attended the conference, highlighted by a welcome evening with local music and dances and by a dinner cruise along the river.
Two field trips have been arranged: one to the Srinagarind Dam (NW Thailand) and a post-field trip to the tsunami-hit areas around Phuket.

The next general assembly will be held in Tsukuba (Japan) in 2008.

3. International Alliance of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering Professional Associations

A Joint IAEE-IASPEI Working Commission

During the First ECEES (see at point 2 above) a meeting of the newly formed **International Alliance of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering Professional Associations (IASEEPA)** was held as Joint IAEE-IASPEI Session, co-chaired by Luis Esteva (IAEE) and Peter Suhadolc (IASPEI).

After a welcome address by Luis Esteva, Polat Gulkan talked about the "New IAEE Initiatives for Improvement of Earthquake Engineering Worldwide with Particular Reference to Developing Countries" and Peter Suhadolc about the "IASPEI Initiatives in the Field of Strong Ground Motion Investigations and Seismic Hazard Assessment".

The highlight of the meeting was the presentation by Luis Esteva and Peter Suhadolc of the newly established "International Alliance of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering Professional Associations" formed to mitigate seismic risk in the world, especially in less-developed countries, by joining the forces of all professional societies and organizations. A brief history was given of the meetings (Lake Tahoe and Beijing) and initiatives that led to its establishment.

Furthermore, during the discussion, the activities and programs to be undertaken by IASEEPA have been discussed: the role of professional associations within IASEEPA and the importance of their participation for the better achievement of our objectives, with invitations to join; Operation of the IASEEPA initially based on volunteer work; New ideas about possible activities and programs and the identification of those with highest expected benefits with [examination of possible strategies for their implementation](#).

[IASEEPA should work on:](#)

- Dissemination of information about its objectives and motivation for professional associations to join
- Identification of new ideas about possible activities and programs; identification of those with highest expected benefits, [examination of possible strategies for their implementation](#)
- Identification of persons or groups willing to work in the detailed formulation of programs to be promoted and/or implemented during the first stage

Immediately following the meeting, several participants came up and suggested that a good activity for the IASEEPA would be to organize some activity around developing guidelines for construction of non engineered buildings, possibly with a workshop to be organized in co-operation with involved professional associations. IASEEPA will seek advice and support on this.

Minutes of the discussion part of the meeting can be obtained from Peter Suhadolc. Please read them and send a feedback to either Luis Esteva or Peter Suhadolc.

During the ESC General Assembly the following Recommendation was adopted:

THE INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF SEISMOLOGY AND EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS - A JOINT COMMISSION OF IASPEI-IAEE

Recognizing

the new initiative towards a Joint IASPEI-IAEE Working Commission (JWC) – The International Alliance of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering Professional Associations - for promoting worldwide advocacy of seismic safety and for influencing public policy in order to reduce seismic losses,

Considering

that ESC is a regional commission of IASPEI,

The ESC Recommends

that the Council mandates the Executive Committee to take the necessary actions for making ESC actively participate in the development of JWC-related initiatives in the European-Mediterranean region

Please disseminate this information to colleagues and members of professional associations and societies! Everybody interested and willing to contribute is welcome to take part to IASEEPA!

Luis Esteva Peter Suhadolc

IAEE Past President IASPEI Secretary General

4. In Memoriam

State seismologist and friend Joergen Hjelme

by S. Gregersen, E.S. Husebye, E. Hjortenber, H. Bungum, and O. Dahlman.

Joergen Hjelme - Joergen to all of us – was born on December 27, 1928 in Gentofte ,Denmark. He graduated from the University of Copenhagen as mag. scient. in physics in 1953. At that time there were few research positions available so Jørgen started his career as a teacher in a local high school. However, after just a year he came to the Geodetic Institute in Copenhagen (later transferred into the National Survey and Cadastre - Denmark) and his main initial task was to maintain and operate the national seismograph stations in Denmark and Greenland. Joergen obtained a supplementary mag. scient. degree in geodesy from University of Copenhagen in 1956. He studied seismology in Germany, in Clausthal-Zellerfeld, Stuttgart and Hamburg in 1960.

In the 1950s seismology was not well developed, suffering from poor instrumentation, lack of adequate computational facilities, and analog earthquake recordings. Joergen, with his background in physics, was keenly aware of this so when the Geodetic Institute acquired its first computers he was in the forefront for using these new tools in analysis of parameterized seismological data. He participated in some of the first crustal profiling studies in Denmark in the 1960s. Friends participating in these investigations still remember Joergen's exceptionally careful seismogram analyses.

In 1958 UK, USA and USSR representatives convened in Geneva for scientific discussions on technical seismological means for monitoring compliance of a future, possible UN test ban treaty prohibiting any type of nuclear weapon tests. The year 1958 was significant on two accounts; the preceding year USA had demonstrated that underground tests were adequate in the context of weapon design, and underground tests (explosions) could be monitored most efficiently by seismological means. It was equally clear that the seismological science as such was not up to the monitoring challenges, so major countries like UK and USA launched large seismological research programmes aimed at transforming seismology into a modern and theoretically advanced science. The first step was to ensure better observational data both quantitatively and qualitatively by deploying experimental small aperture arrays. And the USA funded the World Wide (WWSSN) network of 100 identical seismograph stations. Four of these WWSSN stations were deployed by Joergen: one in Copenhagen and three in Greenland. Better data spurred theoretical advances which in turn

demanded ever better seismograph stations and easy data access worldwide. This process is still going on. Joergen was among the pioneers, and he was the Danish representative in the Group of Scientific Experts (GSE) for technical nuclear test ban monitoring from the beginning to 1995. He was very popular with all the group members due to his many wise and moderating questions. He was sought out for dinner company in the evenings since few, if any other GSE-member, mastered menus in French, and besides he was exceptional due to his spirited debates.

Another societal seismological issue is the seismic hazard and its mitigation issue. Joergen's involvement here was twofold; i) participating in the Swedish/Danish temporary network operation aimed at collecting data for improved seismic hazard estimation for the Swedish nuclear power plants (and possible Danish ones) and (ii) earthquake hazards for the Southern Iceland Lowlands (SIL). Joergen's contributions here were to find the proper solution among national competitive ones and foremost to ensure that the project work moved forward. All of us are grateful for the mediation of Joergen. He was during his whole career dedicated to promoting cooperation between seismologists in the Nordic countries.

Joergen was a person easy to get along with. A pleasant atmosphere surrounded him. He was always ready for a thorough conversation concerning seismology as well as many developments in modern society. He developed many international connections especially with the seismological colleagues working with detection and discrimination of nuclear explosions. He was a member of the IASPEI commission on practice for many years and was the chairman of the working group on magnitude for several years. He was the Danish representative to IASPEI for very many years.

In recognition of his service to the Danish Defence Ministry he was "promoted" Knight of Dannebrog in 1978, Medal of the Danish Defence Ministry in 1980, and Knight first class of Dannebrog in 1984. Joergen retired in 1995, when he turned 67 years. He died March 4 2006, at an age of 77 years. His wife died many years ago. He is survived by his son, Erik.

We have lost a valued colleague and a good friend.

5. News in short

2008 will be the Year of Science and Technology for Africa

The African Union (AU) is planning to declare 2008 to be the year of S &T for Africa. If this proposition is endorsed by the African Heads of State and Governments in January 2008, it will coincide with ICSU GA in Mozambique (2008), the climax of the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) and the

International Polar Year (IPY), and the mid-year of the electronic Geophysical Year.

6. FORTHCOMING MEETINGS (JANUARY-OCTOBER 2007)

Second Alexander von Humboldt International Conference on "THE ROLE OF GEOPHYSICS IN NATURAL DISASTER PREVENTION"

March 5-9, 2007, Lima, Peru

Contact persons: Ron Woodman & Peter Fabian, Chairmen of the Scientific Program Committee

Download 2ndConference-Circular2-Version 9.pdf:

Registration through: <http://www.cosis.net/>

Website: <http://www.meetings.copernicus.org/avh2/>

Second International Conference on the Geology of the Tethys 19-22 March, 2007, Cairo University, Egypt

Abstracts should be submitted before January 1, 2007, up to 300 words written in two languages, English is one of them. The original of the manuscripts together with the originals of figures, plates, graphs and charts should be submitted before January 30, 2007.

Organizer: The Tethys Geological Society

Website: [WWW. TGS-International.com](http://WWW.TGS-International.com)

Contact person: Prof. El Sayed Abd El Aziz Aly Youssef

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European Geosciences Union (EGU 2007)

15-20 April 2007, Vienna, Austria

The EGU General Assembly will be held again at the congress centre Austria Center Vienna (ACV) in Vienna, Austria, from 15-20 April 2007 with an early registration and the icebreaker reception taking place on Sunday, 15 April 2007.

Deadline for Receipt of Abstracts: **15 January 2007**

http://www.cosis.net/members/meetings/programme/overview_db.php?m_id=40

Website: <http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2007>

The 2007 Annual Meeting of the Seismological Society of America

April 11-13, 2007, Hawaii, USA

Abstracts are now being accepted. Submit online at

<http://www.seismosoc.org/meetings/2007/absub/index.html>

until January 12, 2007.

For descriptions of the special session, see
http://www.seismosoc.org/meetings/2007/special_sessions.html.
Room reservations at the Hilton may be made immediately.
See the official meeting website for more information:
<http://www.soest.hawaii.edu/ssa2007/>

**International Symposium on Seismic Risk Reduction
26-27 April 2007, Bucharest, Romania**

The Symposium is organized within the frame of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Technical Cooperation Project with Romania entitled "Seismic risk reduction for buildings and structures", implemented in Romania by the National Center for Seismic Risk Reduction (NCSRR) and its partner institutions from Romania and Japan.

The two days Symposium will cover issues related to seismic risk, from seismic ground motion and ground conditions to seismic evaluation and seismic rehabilitation, seismic knowledge dissemination, etc.

The participation to the Symposium is free (no registration fee).

Contact person: Alexandru Aldea <issrr2007@utcb.ro>

Web site: <http://cnrrs.utcb.ro/issrr2007/issrr2007.html>

**American Geophysical Union Joint Assembly
May 21-25, 2007, Acapulco, Mexico**

Website: www.agu.org/meetings/ja07/

**Subduction Zone Geodynamics Conference
Montpellier, France 4-7 June 2007**

The conference will focus on recent developments in subduction zone dynamics, covering the themes of Geodynamics & physical models, Seismogenic zone & Seismic hazard, Tectonics

(active margins & back-arc basins), Geochemistry (subduction factory & magmatism), Petrology, metamorphism & Mineral Physics.

Venue: Le Corum International Conference Centre in Montpellier, France, situated in downtown Montpellier.

Contact person: Francesca Funicello <ffunicie@uniroma3.it>

Website: <http://www.dstu.univ-montp2.fr/SUBCO/>

Fifth International Conference on Seismology and Earthquake Engineering (SEE5)

May 14-16, 2007, Tehran, Iran

Topics to be addressed include Seismotectonic, Seismology, Earthquake Prediction, Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering, Structural Earthquake Engineering, Public Awareness and Risk Management.

Pre-registration: January 20th, 2007

Full papers are due: January 20th, 2007

Webpage: www.iiees.ac.ir/SEE5 or www.see5.ir

Contact person: Mohammad Mokhtari, SEE5 coordinator <See5@iiees.ac.ir>

**4th International Conference on Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering
June 25-28, 2007, Thessaloniki, Greece**

The Technical Committee of Earthquake Geotechnical Engineering of the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, the Hellenic Scientific Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering and Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, are very pleased to invite you to join us in the 4th International Conference on Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering in Thessaloniki on June 25-28, 2007.

More about 4icege we invite you to visit the web page of the conference:

<http://www.4icege.org>

We are sure that you will find participation in **4ICEGE** professionally rewarding, scientifically stimulating and personally enjoyable and look forward to meeting you in Thessaloniki in June 2007.

Kyriazis Pitilakis, *Chairman of 4ICEGE*, <secretariat@4icege.org>

International Training course on "Array Seismology"

June 30 - July 3, 2007, Arezzo, ca. 75 km NW of Perugia (Italy)

Organized in the framework of the IUGG/IASPEI 2007 General Assembly and endorsed by the IASPEI Commission on Education and Outreach Program:

- Introduction to the Seismic Handler software
- Beamforming/fk analysis of teleseismic, regional and local events
- Array analysis for site effect studies

The course consists in introductory lectures on theory, applications and in practical exercises. The participants should be familiar with linux and are invited to bring their own (linux!)notebooks.

The number of participants is limited to maximal 20 persons. Priority will be given to young researchers.

Requests should be send until 31.03.2007 to braun@ingv.it.

Contact person: Thomas Braun, INGV <braun@ingv.it>

**24th IUGG General Assembly, Perugia (Italy)
2-13 July 2007, Perugia (Italy)**

Third Circular is on-line!

Abstract Deadline is January 31, 2007

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Abstract submission:

Postal submission of abstracts: January 15

Electronic submission of abstracts: January 31
Grant Application: January 31
Early Bird Registration: April, 30
Accommodation Booking: April, 30
Exhibition Booking: April, 30
Website: <http://www.iugg2007perugia.it/>
IUGG Contact person: LOC, <secretary@iugg2007perugia.it>
IASPEI Contact person: Peter Suhadolc <suhadolc@units.it>

**International Symposium on
"Paleomagnetism and the Earth's Deep Interior: Unsolved Problems and
Future Challenges"**

5-8 July 2007, Beijing, China

Institute of Geology and Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing
Supported by National Natural Science Foundation of China and Chinese
Academy of Sciences.

Topics will include the behaviour of the Earth's ancient and current magnetic
fields,

the methodologies and theories of paleomagnetic studies, the dynamics of
the Earth's deep interior, interactions of the core and lower mantle and
the theories and numerical simulations of the Earth's dynamo.

Website: <http://www.paleomag.net/meeting>.

The abstract and registration deadline: 1 April 2007.

There will be no registration fee.

ENGINEERING NATURE 2007

**First International Conference on the Art of Resisting Extreme Natural
Forces**

11-13 July 2007, The New Forest, UK

Website: <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2007/engnature2007/1.html>

Contact person: Rachel Creasey

Email: rcreasey@wessex.ac.uk or Fax: + 44 (0) 238 029 2853

**International Workshop on Numerical Modeling of Mantle Convection and
Lithospheric Dynamics**

2-7 September 2007, Carry-le-Rouet, close to Marseille (France)

Contact person: Stephane Labrosse <stephane.labrosse@ens-lyon.fr>

8th workshop on Alpine geological studies

October, 3-5, 2007, Davos, Switzerland

The meeting focuses particularly on the
alpine orogens (Alps, Carpathians, and Dinarides) but covers various
aspects of mountain building in general.

We plan to hold eight sessions with oral and poster presentations:

1. From subduction to collision (key-note speaker: Onno Oncken, Potsdam).
2. Present-day Alps: Neotectonics and big tunnels (Rainer Brandner, Innsbruck).
3. Speed of tectonic and metamorphic processes and the role of HP/UHP metamorphic rocks (Alfons Berger, Bern).
4. Orogenic curvature and kinematics of the Alps-Carpathians-Dinarides system (Liviu Matenco, Amsterdam).
5. Alpine oceans: Rifting, break-up, spreading (Thorsten Nagel, Bonn).
6. Coupling of climate, uplift, erosion, and topography (Sean Willett, Washington).
7. Foreland and internal basins: What controls their evolution? (Francois Roure, Rueil-Malmaison).
8. Deep structure, lithospheric strength, and mantle dynamics (Edi Kissling, Zürich).

Also, there will be pre- and post-workshop field trips on October, 1st and October, 2nd (Totalp area and Tilisuna area respectively) and October, 6th to 7th (Lago-di-Como area). Please check our website <http://www.geologie.uni-bonn.de/Alpshop07/> for further information.

If you are interested in coming to Davos, please send an unbinding preliminary registration to alpshop07@uni-bonn.de. Please pass this information to any interested colleagues. Thank you.

Contact person: Niko Froitzheim <alpshop@uni-bonn.de>

3rd International conference on Science and Technology for Safe Development of Lifeline Systems - Natural risks: Progress on seismic and geotectonic modeling across CEI territory and implications on preventing and mitigating seismic risk

October 24-27, 2007, Bucharest, Romania

Contact person: Mircea Radulian <mircea@infp.ro>