



IN THIS ISSUE

Foreword..... 1

Message from the IASPEI President..... 2

IASPEI General Assembly in Cape Town, 10-16
January 2009 3

Bids Open for 2013 IASPEI General Assembly..... 3

IAEE-IASPEI Joint Meeting..... 3

ESC General Assembly, Hersonissos, Greece.....3

ASC General Assembly, Tsukuba, Japan.....4

IUGG News.....4

ICTP pre-PhD Diploma Program.....4

In Memoriam - George W Housner.....5

Job Opportunities..... 5

Meetings Calendar.....6

General Information about IASPEI..... 8



Foreword



The final Scientific programme for the General Assembly in Cape Town is available on the IASPEI website:

<http://www.iaspei.org/download/scientific-program20082009b.pdf>

See you all in Cape Town!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR 2009 to all of you!

The IASPEI Newsletter is distributed to National Correspondents and other national representatives we know of, to all IASPEI officers, to IASPEI scientists who attended recent IASPEI Assemblies, and to various research organisations in countries around the world.

Peter Suhadolc
Secretary General

Message from the IASPEI President



Dear Colleagues,

As stated in our statutes, the mission of IASPEI is to co-operate internationally to better understand our Earth. In the year 2008, through the effort of seismologists from different places of the world, there were many significant advancements in such co-

operation.

In February, the Evison Symposium on Seismogenesis and Earthquake Forecasting, Wellington, explored new possibilities for the collaborative study of earthquake predictability. In March, the Planning Meeting of the International Scientific Studies of the Implementation of the CTBT Verification System (called ISS project by the CTBTO PrepComm PTS), Vienna, marked a new period in the cooperation between IASPEI and IMS. In May, after the devastating Wenchuan earthquake, sympathy, aids, and helps from international seismological community to Chinese seismologists indicated our radical notion to collaborate internationally for the reduction of earthquake disasters. In June, the Global Earthquake Model (GEM) project was formally launched, with IASPEI and IASPEI-people playing an active role. In September, the 9th Workshop on 3D Modelling of Seismic Waves Generation was held in Trieste, as one of the activities of the continuous co-operation between ICTP and IASPEI. In October, during the 14th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering (WCEE), Beijing, a mechanism for the IASPEI-IAEE dialogue was formalized.

Through our commissions and working groups, international co-operation for education and outreach, seismological observation and interpretation, studies on tectonophysics and crustal structure, earthquake sources, Earth structure and geodynamics, earthquake hazard, risk and strong ground motion, and digital broadband seismograph networks, kept getting continuous progress. By co-operating with our sister associations, IASPEI also contributed to the studies on the physics and chemistry of Earth materials, volcano geophysics, heat flow, electromagnetic studies of earthquakes and volcanoes, and tsunami warning, as well as the international co-operation in various aspects such as international ocean network, Earth sciences in Africa, studies on subduction zones located in developing countries, and re-use of submarine telephone cables.

IASPEI has two active regional commissions. In September, the European Seismological Commission (ESC) held its 31st General Assembly in Hersonissos, Crete island. In November, the 7th General Assembly of the Asian Seismological Commission (ASC) and the Seismological Society of Japan (SSJ) 2008 Fall Meeting was held in Tsukuba, being the first joint meeting of ASC with a national seismological society.

Among the IASPEI-sponsored projects going on let me briefly recall just the Seismoarchives one, under the excellent guidance and much volunteer work of Willie Lee, and the newly established Working group on Rotational Seismology.

Throughout the year, organization of the IASPEI Assembly, Cape Town, was going on smoothly. This Assembly will be the first IASPEI Assembly in Africa and will mark the beginning of an even more fruitful 2009. In 2009, we are expecting many events and advancements, as can be seen from our website.

We have had so many memorable firsts in 2008. The above list is absolutely incomplete. All these records were made by all of you, colleagues from different countries and working on different scientific problems. In particular, we recognize the decisive contribution from our national committees. In 2005, during the IASPEI Assembly in Santiago de Chile, Prof. Bob Engdahl, who has served as IASPEI secretary general for three terms and was at that time IASPEI President, said:

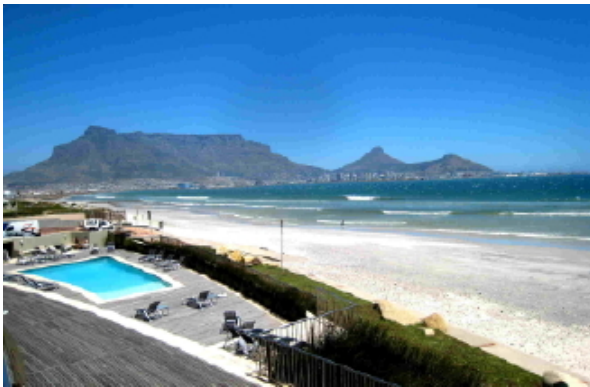
The organizational structure and the scientific programs of IASPEI have been created around an essential and guiding concept. International co-operation is the guiding principle for the advancement of seismology and the physics of the Earth's interior. The contributions to human welfare and knowledge of the many collaborative research projects and of the dissemination of the results of research to the international community through activities promoted by IASPEI are testimony to the effectiveness of IASPEI in pursuit of its goals. IASPEI depends for its future success on the vigorous support of the individual scientists who plan and perform the research, deliver the reports on their findings at IASPEI-sponsored symposia, and devote countless hours as volunteers to the work of commissions and working groups. But IASPEI also relies on the support of the Member Countries, which provide the core financial and intellectual support, and on the National Committees that represent these Members in IUGG and IASPEI. Nations that are affected by damaging earthquakes obviously benefit from the work of IASPEI. However, all nations benefit because this work extends the scope of human knowledge and the applications of that knowledge to other problems, such as the location and development of natural resources and the preservation of the natural environment.

At the end of this year, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of you for your supports to, and participation in, the works of IASPEI. We would like to send our best wishes to all of you for an even more productive 2009.

We are looking forward to meeting you all in Cape Town!

Wu Zhongliang, IASPEI President

The IASPEI General Assembly in Cape Town, 11-16 January 2009



Time and Place

IASPEI's General Assembly in 2009 will be held in Cape Town, South Africa, 11-16 January 2009. The scientific sessions will be held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre.

Registration

Registration is possible at the conference website:
<http://www.iaspei2009sa.com/>

Scientific and Auxiliary Program

The final program and related time schedule, as well as the Auxiliary program with the business meeting schedule, are accessible through either the IASPEI website:

<http://www.iaspei.org/>

or the conference website:

<http://www.iaspei2009sa.com/>

Contact person

Michelle Grobbelaar

Email: iaspei2009@geoscience.org.za

Assembly web site: <http://www.iaspei2009sa.com/>

Bids open for 2013 IASPEI General Assembly

The bidding for the IASPEI 2013 General Assembly is open and we invite all IASPEI National Correspondents and officers to send suggestions and expressions of interest to the IASPEI Secretary General.

The last 3 meetings were held in Vietnam, Chile, South Africa. Is it time to have one again in Europe or North America?

Maybe we could have a joint meeting with another IUGG Association?

IAEE-IASPEI Joint meeting

14WCEE, Beijing, October 16, 2008

During the 14th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering in Beijing last October a Joint IAEE-IASPEI meeting was held to discuss the mission of the IAEE-IASPEI Joint Working Group on the International Alliance of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering Professional Associations.

Three possible missions have been tentatively identified:

- Hazard and Risk workshops with basic applications to simple and non- or low-engineered structures (start with a Schools safety program)
- Hazard and risk assessment for highly hazardous installations – the need for a strong co-operation, also through a specialised workshop
- GEM project – a global risk assessment initiative

IAEE has appointed as its Co-chair prof. Mohsen Ghafory-Ashtiany. The IASPEI Co-Chair is Prof. Peter Suhadolc. Members of the JWG are also Dr. Brian Tucker, Prof. Luis Esteva and Prof. Gulkan Polat along with the IAEE and IASPEI Presidents, Prof. Tsuneo Katayama and Prof Wu Zhongliang.

ESC General Assembly Hersonissos, Crete, Greece

September 8-12, 2008

The European Seismological Commission (ESC) held its 31st General Assembly in Hersonissos, Crete Island, Greece.

About 450 scientists have participated to the well-organized conference, that was structured in 28 sessions organized within 12 thematic areas.

The new ESC Executive Committee members are:

President: Jochen Zschau
Past President: Domenico Giardini
Vice President: Michel Cara
Past Vice President: Gerassimos Papadopoulos
Secretary General: Mariano Garcia Fernandez
Assistant Secretary: Ina Cecic
Executive Committee Members:
Rami Hofstetter, Steinunn Jakobsdottir, Dario Slejko

The venue of the next 2010 ESC conference will be: Montpellier, France

A conference report will be soon available on the ESC website:

<http://www.esc-web.org/>

ASC General Assembly Tsukuba, Japan

November 25-27, 2008

In November, the 7th General Assembly of the Asian Seismological Commission (ASC) and the Seismological Society of Japan (SSJ) 2008 Fall Meeting was held in Tsukuba, Japan, being the first joint meeting of ASC with a national seismological society.

About 760 scientists (more than 600 from Japan) from 39 countries and regions have participated to the well-organized conference, which was structured in 22 thematic sessions.

The new ASC Executive Committee members are:

President: Prof. Kazuro Hirahara (Japan)
First Vice President: Prof. Trieu Dinh Cao (Vietnam)
Second Vice President: Sumalee Prachuab (Thailand)
Secretary General: Dr. R.K. Chadha (India)
Member: Dr. Ding Zhifeng (China)
Member: Dr. Andrew King (New Zealand)

The venue of the next 2010 ESC conference will be: Hanoi, Vietnam

A conference report will be soon available on the ASC website:

<http://www.asc1996.com/>

IUGG News

Greece a member of IUGG again

On 7 July 2008 an application for re-admission of GREECE to IUGG as a regular member of Category 3 was received from the Hellenic National Committee for Geodesy and Geophysics.

The IUGG Executive Committee welcomed this application, and it was placed before the IUGG Adhering Bodies in regular status (dues paid) for a vote by correspondence. The application was accepted (22 affirmative and 1 abstain). According to the IUGG Statutes and By-Laws, the membership of Greece is provisional until the next meeting of the IUGG Council in Melbourne, Australia, 2011, when a final vote will be taken.

The new IASPEI National Correspondent for Greece is V. Papazachos.

CONGRATULATIONS!

ICTP pre-PhD Diploma Program

The Program initially had three streams: High Energy Physics, Condensed Matter Physics and Mathematics. We have recently added a new stream on Earth System Physics and started in the Fall of 2007 an additional Program in Basic Physics without specialization. Our goal in these programs is to take good students from the least developed countries generally – and for the Basic Physics Programme students from only sub-Saharan Africa – and educate them so they can compete favorably for graduate studies in any centre of learning in the world. We should note that ICTP is not permitted to offer degrees formally, and the students that we prepare cannot continue for Ph.D. at ICTP.

The deadline for application is December 31st 2008.

The web site of the ICTP 1-year pre-PhD Diploma Program is on-line: <http://diploma.ictp.it>

In Memoriam

George W Housner (1911 –2008)

Professor George W Housner of California Institute of Technology (Caltech) passed away on November 10, 2008. He was 97 years and died of natural causes in Pasadena, California.

Professor Housner gave numerous seminal concepts and is considered the father of modern earthquake engineering. In the words of Professor Paul Jennings [1997]:

“Housner’s was one of the first PhD theses [in 1941] written on earthquake engineering in the United States and he has been intimately involved ever since in almost all of the important developments in the field, including the establishment of the EERI and the International Association for Earthquake Engineering, the establishment of the World and US National Conferences on Earthquake Engineering, most of the major national studies and government commissions, and many of the important engineering projects of the last half-century, including BART, the California Water Project and the earthquake resistant design of tall buildings, dams, nuclear power plants and offshore drilling structures.”

One may read his “oral history” to know more about this extra-ordinary human being at Caltech website (1984 version):

http://oralhistories.library.caltech.edu/23/00/OH_Housner_G.pdf

and at EERI website (longer 1997 version):

http://www.eeri.org/cds_publications/oral_histories/0-943198-58-5_Housner.pdf

Professor Housner had a deep impact on the development of earthquake engineering in India and many other developing countries. In the late fifties,

Late Professor Jai Krishna was introduced to the subject by him and by his colleague at Caltech Late Professor Donald E Hudson. Later in the year 1959, Professors Housner and Hudson spent several months at Roorkee to help Prof Jai Krishna start the earthquake engineering programme in India and to organize the first of the 4-yearly Indian Symposia on Earthquake Engineering. Professor Housner taught several others who later contributed to earthquake engineering in India: Prof A R Chandrasekaran, Late Prof L S Srivastava, Late Prof N C Nigam, Prof C V R Murty and myself.

Professor Housner was a very enthusiastic supporter of the formation of the National Information Centre of Earthquake Engineering (NICEE) at IIT Kanpur and its activities. He not only encouraged us and made financial contributions, but a few years ago gave away a huge collection of his earthquake engineering books to the NICEE library.

His passing away is a deep loss to the earthquake engineering community worldwide, and for me personally. He has been my teacher and mentor for the past almost three decades. Over the years, I received his numerous personally-typed letters of encouragement that were a great source of inspiration. He would often send me a puzzle or an interesting book to remind me that life is more than just earthquake engineering. My annual visits to him for the last several years, including the one in November 2007, were tremendously energizing.

The NICEE family mourns the passing away of Professor Housner. We pray that his soul may rest in peace.

Sudhir K Jain

Professor of Civil Engineering, and Coordinator, National Information Centre of Earthquake Engineering

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Kanpur 208016, India

skjain@iitk.ac.in

Job Opportunities

I am looking for several young scientists to jumpstart a new five-year program in global seismic tomography at Geosciences Azur in the south of France that has two major goals: (1) to open up the oceans for the observation of P wave arrival times using acoustic robots, and (2) to combine finite-frequency body wave data with low-frequency seismic observations in a multiscale global tomographic interpretation.

If you know of highly qualified applicants from overseas that could meet with me at the forthcoming meetings of AGU or IASPEI, please forward the attached job descriptions to them. I will probably not have the time to meet with everyone, but a brief recommendation from you emailed to me will help me to sift through CV's.

In 2009 I expect to fill the following part-time positions:

[1] A researcher with several years postdoctoral experience in seismology, wavelet theory and/or high performance computing. In addition to pursuing an active research program in global seismic tomography, the candidate will coordinate research efforts and manage other aspects of the project. Some knowledge of the French language is desirable. This is a temporary position that can be extended for the full length of the project (five years).

[2] A postdoc with experience in low frequency seismology and high performance computing.

[3] A graduate student who will work on multiple-frequency tomography of body wave travel times and amplitudes. This is a three year position. (European level-)MSc or equivalent required.

[4] An engineer who will be in charge of the technical development and deployment of acoustic robots. This is a temporary position that can be extended for the full length of the project (five years). Good knowledge of French desirable.

[5] A postdoc with experience in ocean acoustics or ocean bottom seismometers. Some knowledge of French desirable.

For a more extensive job description for the postgraduate positions write to:

Guust Nolet: nolet@geoazur.unice.it

Meetings Calendar

A calendar of scientific meetings relevant to the interests of IASPEI scientists is maintained at:

<http://www.iaspei.org/meetings/forthcoming.html>

where more details can be found. We report below just the titles, dates, places and websites of the forthcoming meetings.

2009

35th IASPEI General Assembly

January 11-16, 2009

Cape Town, South Africa

Venue: Cape Town International Convention Center

Organizers: Council for Geoscience

Email: iaspei2009@geoscience.org.za

Web site: <http://www.iaspei2009sa.com/>

2009 SSA Annual Meeting

8-10 April 2009

Monterey, California, USA

Website:

<http://www.seismosoc.org/meetings/index.php#2009>

European Geosciences Union

General Assembly 2009

19 – 24 April 2009, Vienna, Austria

Abstracts deadline: January 13, 2009

Website: <http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2009/>

Second International Seminar on Prediction of Earthquakes

23-24 April, 2009, Lisbon, Portugal

Deadline Registration forms: Jan 31, 2009

Deadline Abstracts: March 31, 2009

Website: [http://www.academia-](http://www.academia-engenharia.org/noticia_detail.asp?ID=13)

[engenharia.org/noticia_detail.asp?ID=13](http://www.academia-engenharia.org/noticia_detail.asp?ID=13)

The Meeting of the Americas

2009 Joint Assembly

24–27 May 2009, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Session Proposal Submissions Open

Deadline: 05 November 2008

Website: <http://www.agu.org/meetings.shtml>

International Symposium on Earthquake Seismology and Earthquake Predictability

May 2009, Beijing, China

Website: <http://www.cea-igp.ac.cn/>

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC STUDIES PROJECT

To evaluate the capability and readiness of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty's verification regime, Hofburg Imperial Palace, Vienna, Austria

10 to 12 June 2009, Vienna, Austria

Conference webpage: www.ctbto.org

Contact address: iss@ctbto.org

From Core to Crust: Towards an Integrated Vision of Earth's Interior

July 20 – 24, 2009, Trieste, Italy

The Abdus Salam International Center for Theoretical Physics Organizer(s): Directors: K. Aoudia, S. Scandolo, J. Niemela
Application deadline: April 30, 2009
Contact E-mail: smr2048@ictp.it

[AOGS2009 – 6-th Annual General Meeting](#)

11-15 August 2009, SUNTEC Singapore

Abstract Submission - Opens 15 Jan 2009

Enquiries & Assistance - Please Email

info@asiaoceania.org

Website:

<http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2009/index.asp>

[Advanced Workshop on Evaluating, Monitoring and Communicating Volcanic and Seismic Hazards in East Africa,](#)

August 17 - 28, 2009, Trieste, Italy. The Abdus Salam International Center for Theoretical Physics.

Organizer(s): Directors: K. Aoudia, E. Calais, C.

Ebinger, T. Wright, G. Yirgu

Application deadline: April 30, 2009

Contact E-mail: smr2053@ictp

Web-Page: <http://www.ictp.it>



Evaluating, Monitoring and Communicating Volcanic and Seismic Hazards in East Africa
17 - 28 August 2009
Miramare, Trieste, Italy

The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics is organizing a two-week Workshop on **Evaluating, Monitoring and Communicating Volcanic and Seismic Hazards in East Africa** to be held from August 17th to 28th, 2009, in Trieste, Italy. The workshop is co-sponsored by the US National Science Foundation, the UNAVCO, the IASPEI and the IAVCEI.

The past few years have seen an unprecedented range of volcanic and seismic activity in the East African Rift, which has focused the attention of scientists and local communities on geohazards. In 2002, a volcanic eruption in the Congo destroyed 25% of the city of Goma and forced the evacuation of 500,000 people; an exceptional rifting episode in the Afar region of Ethiopia has been ongoing since September 2005; a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck Mozambique in 2006; a rifting event occurred at Lake Natron in Tanzania in July 2007.

Results of initial investigations into these events suggest that activity is set to continue at a high rate over the coming years, and have highlighted an urgent need to build capacity in modern methods for evaluation, monitoring and communication of volcanic and seismic hazards in East Africa. In this two-week-long capacity-building workshop we will train participants from sub-Saharan Africa and surroundings, and build on a fledgling network of scientists that was established during a meeting on Active Volcanism and Continental Rifting that was held in Luxembourg in November 2007.

The workshop is composed of two weeks. The first will include invited lectures, contributed papers and panel discussions, while the second will include hands-on training sessions. The workshop will address each of the following topics:

1. Evaluating volcanic and seismic hazards
2. Monitoring volcanoes and seismic zones
3. Modelling of volcanic and tectonic phenomena
4. Communicating hazards

The goals of the workshop are to establish a new initiative for cooperation in East Africa, to design programs to comprehensively evaluate and monitor the time and length scales of plate boundary and volcanic deformation, and to develop networks for exchange of ideas and expertise.

Presentations by participants on their specific area of research are welcome. If you wish to make a presentation, please include the title and a one-page abstract together with the application form.

PARTICIPATION

Scientists and post-graduate fellows from all countries that are members of the United Nations, UNESCO or IAEA may attend the activity. As it will be conducted in English, participants should have an adequate working knowledge of that language. Limited funds are available for some participants, who are nationals of, and working in, a developing country, and who are not more than 40 years old. Such support is available only for those who attend the entire activity. There is no registration fee.

HOW TO APPLY FOR PARTICIPATION

The application form can be accessed at the activity website <http://agenda.ictp.it/smr.php?2053>. Once in the website, comprehensive instructions will guide you step-by-step, on how to fill out and submit the application form.

ACTIVITY SECRETARIAT:

Telephone: +39-040-2240-544 Telefax: +39-040-2240-589
E-mail: smr2053@ictp.it ICTP Home Page: <http://www.ictp.it/>

Trieste, December 2008

Organisers

Abdelkrim Aoudia
ICTP, Italy
Eric Calais
University of Purdue, USA
Cindy Ebinger
Rochester University, USA
Meghan Miller
UNAVCO, USA
Tim Wright
University of Leeds, UK
Gezahegn Yirgu
Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Invited Lecturers

Willy Aspinall (UK)
Estelle Atekwana (USA)
Atalay Ayale (Ethiopia)
Vittorio Bosi (Italy)
Tom Brocher (USA)
Roger Buck (USA)
Simon Carr (USA)
Valerie Cayol (France)
Richard Ferdinand-Wambura
(Tanzania)
Francis Kervyn (Belgium)
Nicolas d'Oreye (Luxembourg)
Gebrebrhan Ogbuzaighi (Eritrea)
Chuck Meertens (USA)
Mitsotse Modisi (Botswana)
Jurgen Neuberg (UK)
Andy Nyblade (USA)
Paolo Papale (Italy)
Clive Oppenheimer (UK)
Diane Roman (USA)
Steve Sparks (UK)
Ross Stein (USA)
Steve Tait (France)
Dario Tedesco (Italy)
Bob Tilling (USA)

DEADLINE
for requesting participation
1 May 2009

General Information about IASPEI

The International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior is one of the eight Associations of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics [[IUGG](#)].

The other IUGG Associations are:

International Association of Cryospheric Sciences ([IACS](#))

International Association of Geodesy [[IAG](#)]

International Association of Hydrological Sciences [[IAHS](#)]

International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences [[IAMAS](#)]

International Association for the Physical Sciences of the Oceans [[IAPSO](#)]

International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy ([IAGA](#))

International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior [[IAVCEI](#)]

Scientific Assemblies

IASPEI holds an Ordinary General Assembly every four years in conjunction with each Ordinary General Assembly of IUGG. Between the General Assemblies, IASPEI holds a Scientific Assembly, sometimes meeting with one of the other Associations of IUGG.

Participation in IASPEI Activities

IASPEI welcomes all scientists throughout the world to join in research into Seismology. IASPEI is subdivided into a number of Commissions, many of which have working groups for the study of particular subjects in their general areas of interest. On occasion, these internal IASPEI groups issue their own newsletters or circulars and many maintain their own web sites. At the IASPEI Assemblies, the groups organize specialist symposia, invite scholarly reviews and receive contributed papers that present up-to-the-minute results of current research. The IASPEI web site gives, or provides links to, information on the range of IASPEI activities.

The IASPEI Web site

Information on IASPEI can be found at: <http://www.iaspei.org/>

Contacting IASPEI

The Secretary-General is the main point of contact for all matters concerning IASPEI.

Prof Peter Suhadolc

Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra
Universita' di Trieste

Via E. Weiss, 1

I-34127 Trieste, ITALY

E-mail: suhadolc@units.it