



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR 2010 to all of you!

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Foreword



Dear readers,

One more year is about to come to its end, a year that has been quite a good one for IASPEI. We began the year with our successful Scientific Assembly in Cape Town. Despite the, somewhat, lower than expected attendance, all the sessions were very well attended, discussions fruitful and social activities fantastic. Thanks again to our LOC, the Council of Geosciences of South Africa!

We are now looking forward to the IUGG2011 General Assembly in Melbourne and the preparations, in terms of the Scientific Programme, are well underway. A short report about this is to be found in one of the next Sections.

During the year several IASPEI related and sponsored activities took place.

- The 2nd International Seminar on Prediction of Earthquakes, Lisbon, Portugal, 29-30 April 2009
- The International Symposium on Earthquake Seismology and Earthquake Predictability, Beijing, China, July 5-9, 2009
- From Core to Crust: Towards an Integrated Vision of Earth's Interior, ICTP, Trieste, Italy, July 20- 24, 2009

- Advanced Workshop on Evaluating, Monitoring and Communicating Volcanic and Seismic Hazards in East Africa, Trieste, ICTP, Trieste, Italy, 7-28 August, 2009.
- The International Workshop on Geodynamical Phenomena, Suzdal, Russia, August 19-23, 2009.
- The 11th International Workshop on Modelling of Mantle Convection and Lithospheric Dynamics, Braunwald (Switzerland), June 28 to July 3, 2009
- The IRIS/ORFEUS Metadata Workshop - Managing Waveform Data and Related Metadata for Seismic Networks, Helwan, Cairo, Egypt, November 2009

During 2010 there will be some important meetings, we just mention the two General Assemblies of the IASPEI regional Commissions:

- The 32nd General Assembly of the European Seismological Commission, to be held during September 6-10, 2010, in Montpellier, France.
- The 8th ASC General Assembly, to be held during November 8-10, 2010, in Hanoi, Vietnam

Finally, words of concern for the ongoing financial crisis that has and will continue to also affect IASPEI financial resources and activities. In the coming years it will be more and more difficult for everybody to find funds for travel and attending meetings and our extremely limited budget will not allow much assistance. Not only that, as you will read in the next Section, the cuts already undermine the existence of several Institutes.

However, I encourage you all to give priority to IASPEI sponsored meetings in 2010 and thus support your Association's activities.

Peter Suhadolc
Secretary General

Disclaimer

I am sending out the Newsletter as an attachment to an e-mail, trying to limit its size. It can also be downloaded from the IASPEI website:

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

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.

Financial crisis starts to also affect Earth Sciences

Recently, calls for help from Japanese and Czech scientists have reached us, requesting sympathy and

letters of support for their institutes which are threatened by severe financial cuts, which undermine their research and jobs. This situation is similar in many other (if not all) countries due to the ongoing world financial crisis and the related heavy budget cuts going on.

IASPEI is sympathetic towards all effected scientists and, hereby, strongly urges all governments NOT to undermine the life of research institutions and their operational capabilities with heavy cuts, since sustained research and innovation are the only way of getting out of the crisis and to maintain the long-term sustainability of a country's research capabilities and competitiveness.

IUGG2011 Science Program Committee October Meeting in Melbourne, Australia

The Scientific Program Committee for the IUGG2011 General Assembly is comprised of the Chair (Peter Manins), IUGG Secretary General, 8 Association Secretaries General, and IUGG President (ex-officio). The Committee met in Melbourne on 12 October together with the Australian and New Zealand representatives to SPC, Chair of LOC, and representatives of the designated Professional Conference Organizers. The tentative draft of the science program was discussed including topics of Union and inter-Association symposia. The science program should be finalized by end January 2010.

All IASPEI-related symposia lead conveners will be asked in January to finalize the already proposed symposia aims and select co-conveners.

COMMEMORATION 50 years of modern seismology in Slovenia

Slovenian seismology started in 1897, following the Ljubljana 1895 earthquake, when Albin Belar installed the first seismographs in Ljubljana. In 1925 the seismic monitoring was resumed with the purchase of a Wiechert horizontal seismograph, but all recordings were regularly sent to Belgrade for analysis. During the Second world war they were lost, probably during April 1941 bombing.

Only in 1958 the Wiechert seismograph was put back into operation and a Stuttgart seismograph (made by Hiller) bought (Fig.1) so that seismic recording was resumed and from 1959 on became regular.



Fig. 1. The Hiller short-period seismograph Stuttgart

In 1966 the short-period Lehner-Griffith and long-period Sprengnether seismographs were acquired and the Golovec observatory (Fig.2) became part of the WWSSN system. In the 90's other seismological stations began to be built, equipped with Guralp CMG-40T instruments, 16-bit A/D converters, managed by IBM 486 computers with OS/2 operating system and connected through telephone lines.



Fig. 2. Golovec seismic observatory in Ljubljana

Until the 1998 Mw5.6 Bovec-Krn event in the Upper Soca valley, seven such stations were operating, among them one still analog with ink recording on paper. The old network was clearly unable to properly cope with the necessity for real-time accurate location and focal parameter determination, as well as rapid information of the public, so the Slovenian government decided to substantially improve the seismic monitoring. Today's modern 25-station seismic network managed by ARSO (Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia) is among the world's best and exchanges data in real time also with the neighbouring countries. Just a few minutes after the event, the public can see the basic information on the ARSO internet page:

http://www.arso.gov.si/podrocja/potresi/podatki/aip/zadnji_potresi_slo.html.

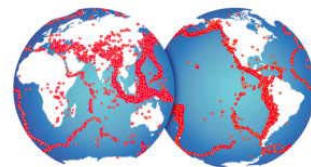
The start of modern seismological monitoring and the issuing of regular seismic bulletins was made possible 50 years ago by Prof. Dr. Vlado Ribarič, to whom a memorial plate was dedicated on 27 September 2009 at the Golovec seismic observatory in Ljubljana (Fig.3). The ARSO Director Silvo Žlebir and IASPEI Secretary-General, Peter Suhadolc, gave the welcome and commemorative addresses.



Fig. 3. The pioneer of modern Slovenian seismology, prof. dr. Vladimir Ribarič (1928-2001).

Contributed by Renato Vidrih
(adapted by Peter Suhadolc)

GEM: THE GLOBAL EARTHQUAKE MODEL



A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

User Needs Assessment (UNA) survey

GEM is a public/private partnership initiated and approved by the Global Science Forum of the OECD. With committed backing from academia, governments, and industry, GEM will contribute to achieving profound, lasting reductions in earthquake risk worldwide.

GEM aims to be the uniform, independent standard to calculate and communicate earthquake risk worldwide and will hence be the critical instrument to support decisions and actions that reduce earthquake losses worldwide. All who face risk, from homeowners to governments, need accurate and transparent risk information before they will take mitigating action. By

providing the information in a manner that is understandable to all users, GEM aims to raise awareness, lead to adoption and enforcement of building codes, promote seismic mitigation, and stimulate insurance use.

GEM will be the first global, open-source model for seismic risk assessment at a national and regional scale, and aims to achieve broad scientific participation and independence. Construction of a first version of the model started in 2009 and is envisaged to be ready by 2013.

Recently, GEM has launched a User Needs Assessment (UNA). It is a brief online survey, developed by SPA Risk, aimed at collecting guidance for the design and development of GEM software and its underlying basis, so that the global earthquake model will serve the needs of all its end-users and stakeholders.

The survey is available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Hindi and Japanese, and it should take no more than 10 min to complete. We would therefore like to invite you to visit the GEM website (www.globalquakemodel.org) and click on the red banner at the upper right hand corner in order to access the online survey.

Your participation would be very much appreciated. Results of the UNA will be compiled and made available at the GEM website once the survey is completed.

THE EARTH SCIENCE EDUCATION INITIATIVE IN AFRICA

Based on requests from African National Committees of the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE), the Director General of UNESCO announced a new Earth Science Education Initiative at the regional launch of the IYPE in Arusha, Tanzania on 8 May 2008. The overall intention of this Initiative is to support the development of the next generation of earth scientists in Africa who are equipped with the necessary tools, networks and perspectives to apply sound science to solving and benefiting from the challenges and opportunities of sustainable development. The IUGS is an Organizational partner in this Initiative. The initial program included five regional workshops to take place to scope the initiative by identifying capacities, needs and strategies: October 28-29, 2009, Assiut, Egypt; November 12-13, 2009, Luanda, Angola, November 26-27, 2009 Cape Town, South, Africa, December 9-10, 2009, Dakar, Senegal, February 1-2, 2010, Kinshasa, DRC. A Launch Conference will be held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France in the Second quarter of 2010 where the compilations of recommendations from the five workshops will be discussed. The conference will gather participants of the five regional workshops and key international stakeholders. Keep up-to-date

with progress at the website: <<http://www.earth-science-education-initiative-africa.org/>>.

From IUGS Bulletin, Nov 2009

Job Opportunities

Green Scholar Positions in Geophysics at IGPP, SCRIPPS Institution of Oceanography, UCSD

The Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics (IGPP) at Scripps Institution of Oceanography has openings for one or more postdoctoral scientists as Green Scholars. Joint funding from the Green Foundation for Earth Sciences and extramural sources associated with specific projects are available to support postdoctoral positions in a broad range of research areas in geophysics. Information about current areas of research at IGPP can be found in the IGPP Annual report at:

<http://www.igpp.ucsd.edu/IGPP-2009AnnualRpt.pdf>

The positions are available for one year and are renewable subject to satisfactory performance and availability of funds. Applicants should send a statement of research interests, curriculum vitae, bibliography, the names of at least two references, and the expected PhD completion date to:

Green Scholar Selection Committee
Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
University of California, San Diego
La Jolla, CA 92093-0225

Review of applications will begin on January 4, 2010. The University of California is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

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.

2010

SISMO2010

Seismic Risk: Management and Impact on the Environment

26-28 February, 2010, Agadir, Morocco

The Ibn Zohr University of Agadir, Morocco, is organizing this meeting to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Agadir big earthquake of February 29, 1960.

Abstract and registration deadlines: December 31, 2009

Information at: sismo2010@gmail.com

Website: <http://sismo.fsa.ac.ma>

SSA 2010 Annual Meeting

20-23 April, 2010, Portland, Oregon

Program Committee co-chairs Seth Moran (USGS - Cascades Volcano Observatory) and Nick Beeler (USGS - Vancouver)

Information at <http://www.seismosoc.org>

AGU Chapman Conference on giant earthquakes and their tsunamis

May 2010, Chile

The conference window will include the 50th anniversary of the 1960 Chilean mainshock, of magnitude 9.5.

Contact person:

Brian F. Atwater: atwater@usgs.gov

Website:

<http://www.agu.org/meetings/chapman/2010/acall/>

IDRC DAVOS 2010

International Disaster and Risk Conference

May 31 - Jun 3, 2010 – Davos, Switzerland

Abstract deadline: December 13, 2009

Website: <http://www.davos2010.org/>

Workshop on "Seismic waves in laterally inhomogeneous media VII"

June 21-26, 2010, Nové Hradky Castle, Czech Republic

Contact person: Ivan Psencik <ivan@ig.cas.cz>

Website: <http://sw3d.cz/swim/>

2010 AGU Joint Assembly in Brazil

August 8-13, 2010, Iguassu Falls, Brazil

Call for session proposals:

www.geophysics2010.org

Enquiries: Marcelo S. Assumpcao

<marcelo@iag.usp.br>

European Conference on Earthquake Engineering

August 30 – September 3, 2010, Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia

The organiser of the conference is the Macedonian Association for Earthquake Engineering (MAEE), under the auspices of EAEE.

Website: <http://www.14ecee.mk>

ESC2010 (European Seismological Commission 2010)

September 6-10, 2010, Montpellier, France

Venue: Corum Conference Centre

Contact: Rémy Bossu (bossu@emsc-csem.org)

Website: www.esc2010.eu

XIX Congress of the Carpathian Balkan Geological Association

23-26 September 2010, Thessaloniki, Greece

NEW DEADLINE:

The new deadline for submitting a full paper is December 31, 2009. This is a hard deadline and no paper will be accepted after that date.

The same date is also the deadline for early registration.

Email: info@cbga2010.org

Website: www.cbga2010.org

EMSEV 2010

Electromagnetic Studies of Earthquakes and Volcanoes

October 3-6, 2010, Chapman University, Orange, California

Websites:

<http://sites.google.com/site/emsev2010/>

<http://www.emsev-iugg.org/emsev/page011.html>

ASC2010 (Asian Seismological Commission 2010)

November 8-10, 2010, in Hanoi, Vietnam

This will be the 8th ASC General Assembly.

The first circular can be downloaded from the website.

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

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.

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