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## The February 27, 2010 Chile M8.8 Earthquake

Rescue activity was still going on in Haiti, when a great M8.8 earthquake hit the Concepcion region in Chile, inflicting heavy damage but with a relatively low number of fatalities (800) for such a large event. It is estimated that some 300,000 people have been left homeless and 26 hospitals suffered damage, half of them requiring reconstruction. A Pacific-wide tsunami alert was issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre in Hawaii but, in the event, the tsunami impact was fairly small beyond the Chile coast and, for example, was barely noticeable in Hawaii, itself.

The earthquake epicentre was offshore, some 100 km north east of the city of Concepcion and 300 km south west of Santiago. The aftershocks mapped out an earthquake rupture length of over 700 km which broke the segment to the north of the one that ruptured during the giant M9.5 Chile event in 1960.

***Our hearts go out to those in Chile who have suffered losses of loved ones and personal properties during the earthquake disaster***

## Foreword



Dear readers,

The Scientific Programme of the IUGG2011 General Assembly in Melbourne is almost ready. The list of approved IASPEI Symposia is reported below. The Inter-Association and Union Symposia will be defined shortly.

**Peter Suhadolc**  
Secretary General

### Please note:

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.

## IUGG2011 Melbourne, Australia, Scientific Program

The Scientific Program for the IUGG2011 General Assembly is almost ready! Some more work is necessary with the Union and Inter-Association Symposia, but IASPEI ones are now defined and approved. I report for your convenience only the related titles and names of conveners. The details will soon appear on the Conference website!

### IASPEI SYMPOSIA

- SS1 Seismological observation and interpretation**  
D Storchak
- SS2 Triggered and induced seismicity**  
S Lasocki, A F do Nascimento

- SS3 Sub-saharan Africa seismicity**  
R Durrheim, A Nyblade, P Dirks
- SS4 Non-instrumental seismology**  
L Grant, D Jackson
- SS5 Infrastructure for seismology (FDSN)**  
T van Eck, G Suarez
- SS6 Recent large or damaging earthquakes**  
H Gupta, Wu Z, P Burton
- SS7 Strong ground motion, their source, path and site effects**  
M Ghafory-Ashtiany, H Kawase
- SS8 Seismic hazard and risk - The Global Earthquake Model**  
M Ghafory-Ashtiany, D Giardini, A Kijko
- SS9 Early warning systems**  
A Zollo, J Zschau
- SS10 Physics of the seismic process: from lab studies to field observations**  
A Zavyalov, I Main, S Shapiro, A Dyskin
- SS11 Earthquake forecasting and testing**  
D Jackson, D Rhoades
- SS12 Episodic tremor, Slip and Large earthquakes**  
D Jackson
- SS13 Seismic imaging of the lithosphere and mantle**  
G Houseman, K Furlong
- SS14 Plate boundary processes**  
G Houseman, K Furlong
- SS15 Anisotropy and Attenuation: Mechanisms, Processes and Observations**  
M K Savage, J Plomerova, J-M Kendall, I Jackson
- SS16 Earthquake disaster assessments: Seismology and Engineering**  
W Mooney
- SS17 Earthquakes and public health**  
L Grant, M Ashtiany
- SS18 Using NMSOP and other educational modules and tools for online and in-person training courses**  
P Bormann, J Taber, G Gibson

Dr Vidrih graduated in geology, later on obtained a Master's degree in seismotectonics and his PhD in seismogeology. He dedicated his entire professional life to Slovenian seismology and he deserves credit for a number of international partnerships that were established by ARSO. He was author of more than 300 professional papers and more than 150 popular articles. His books "The seismic activity of the upper Posočje area", "Restless Earth" and "Evolution of the Earth and Geological Characteristics of Slovenia" are very famous and popular.

Renato Vidrih has left a truly remarkable imprint on Slovenian seismology, which experienced an important impetus in development in the years after 2001, when Renato Vidrih took over the position of Director of the Seismology and Geology Office at ARSO. Thanks to him, Slovenia is, in terms of quality and density of national seismic station networks, ranked among the best in the world. He set the standards and a clear vision for seismic expertise in Slovenia.

Next to his professional work, mineralogy was his great passion. After 30 years of collecting minerals, his compilation of minerals became one of the largest systematic collections in Slovenia – it comprises over 3,500 registered samples. He also published a number of important scientific papers and monographs in this field.

For his work, Renato received the Prometheus in Science Award in 2007, the Zois Award from the Slovenian Museum of Natural History in 2009, and many other awards and commendations. Dr Renato Vidrih is ranked among the most famous names in the history of Slovenian seismology, alongside Albin Belar and Vladimir Ribarič. Not only ARSO, but all Slovenia has lost a distinguished and very renowned expert in the field of seismology.

His memory will live in our hearts!

Verica Vogrinčič (ARSO)

## In Memoriam

### Renato VIDRIH (1957-2010)



Dr Renato Vidrih, Director of the Seismology and Geology Office within the Agencija Republike Slovenije za Okolje (ARSO), Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia, and a founding member of the Slovenian Association of Geodesy and Geophysics, has died at the age of 54 after a severe illness.

## 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

### **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>

### **Advanced conference on "Seismic Risk Mitigation and Sustainable Development"**

10-14 May 2010, ICTP, Trieste, Italy

The Conference will span from theoretical issues to practical engineering and decision-making problems, recognizing the societal need for a critical and realistic view to earthquake hazard assessment.

E-mail: [smr2142@ictp.it](mailto:smr2142@ictp.it)

Website: <http://agenda.ictp.it/smr.php?2142>

### **Geophysics, Geodesy and Tectonics of the North Africa Plate Boundary for Better Earthquake and Tsunami Hazard Assessment**

15-21 May 2010, Algiers, Algeria

Both IASPEI and IAG are co-sponsoring this conference organized by ICTP. The first three days (15 to 17 May 2010) of the workshop will consist in educational lectures and hands-on training sessions and will provide graduate and post-graduate students with the current knowledge in the physics of earthquakes, faults and tsunamis, followed by lectures on GPS and InSAR fundamentals. The workshop will be followed by an international conference (18-21 May 2010) with invited and contributed papers, and panel discussions.

There is no registration fee!

E-mail: [smr2131@ictp.it](mailto:smr2131@ictp.it)

Website: <http://agenda.ictp.it/smr.php?2131>

### **Physics of forecasting of rock destruction 8-th International workshop**

May 24-28, 2010, Zelenogorsk town (St. Petersburg), Russia

Contact person: Alexey Zavyalov: [zavyalov@ifz.ru](mailto:zavyalov@ifz.ru)

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:ivan@ig.cas.cz)>

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

### **2010 Western Pacific Geophysics Meeting**

June 22–25, 2010, Taipei, Taiwan

Website:

<http://www.agu.org/meetings/wp10/program/index.php>

### **2010 AGU Joint Assembly in Brazil**

August 8-13, 2010, Iguassu Falls, Brazil

Co-sponsored by IASPEI.

See the call for abstracts in the Latest News section

on the IASPEI website [www.iaspei.org](http://www.iaspei.org)

Enquiries: Marcelo S. Assumpcao

<[marcelo@iag.usp.br](mailto:marcelo@iag.usp.br)>

Website: [www.geophysics2010.org](http://www.geophysics2010.org)

### **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](mailto:bossu@emsc-csem.org))

Website: [www.esc2010.eu](http://www.esc2010.eu)

### **Geodynamical Phenomena: From Observations and Experiments to Theory and Modelling**

September 20-24, 2010, Kiev, Ukraine

Geophysical topics covered will range from surface processes to the core dynamics. We will also emphasize new developments in information technology and geo data-analysis.

Website: <http://marina.geo.umn.edu/kyiv/>

### **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](mailto:info@cbga2010.org)

Website: [www.cbga2010.org](http://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/>

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## **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/>

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## **Contacting IASPEI**

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

### ***Prof Peter Suhadolc***

Dipartimento di Geoscienze

Universita' di Trieste

Via E. Weiss, 2

I-34127 Trieste, ITALY

E-mail: [suhadolc@units.it](mailto:suhadolc@units.it)