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Foreword



Dear readers,

A very short Newsletter to send you the IASPEI best wishes for the coming festivities and the New Year

2013!

As you will read, this end of the year has seen the birth of our third IASPEI Regional Commission: the Latin American and Caribbean Seismological Commission! An appropriate gift for us all, but especially for the seismologists in that part of the world!

This issue, however, is also a first reminder about the registration and submission of abstracts for the IAHS-IAPSO-IAPSEI 2013 Scientific Assembly in Gothenburg, Sweden. I invite all of you to register as soon as possible, also in order to book convenient flights.

Finally, I invite all of you again to support all IASPEI-sponsored meetings and activities in 2013!

Peter Suhadolc
Secretary General



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR 2013 to all of you!



The 37th IASPEI Scientific Assembly Göteborg, Sweden July 22-26, 2013

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM, REGISTRATION AND ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The Conference website:

<http://www.iahs-iapso-iaspei2013.com>

reports the full scientific program. Do register and submit your abstracts as early as possible! Request for grants is part of the registration.

Note in your agenda:

Abstract deadline is February 4, 2013

If possible, please, do not wait until the very last minute to submit your abstract!

All lead conveners are kindly asked to propose one or two invited speakers for their sessions. This does not imply any financial commitment. Since the talks will be advertised on the conference website, do send the names as soon as possible both to me and to iahs.iapso.iaspei2013@congreg.com

NEW IASPEI REGIONAL COMMISSION

Latin American and Caribbean Seismological Commission

Founding Meeting
Lima, Peru
24 September 2012

After almost two years of preparation, seismologists from several countries in South and Central America gathered in Lima, Peru, on September 24th, 2012 to

form the "Latin America and Caribbean Seismology Commission" (LACSC), being the third IASPEI regional commission after the European ESC and the Asian ASC. The founding meeting was held during the Seismology Symposium of the Geological Congress of Peru. It is expected that the Commission will be formally approved by the IASPEI Council at the July 2013 Assembly in Gothenburg, Sweden.

The LACSC Council is going to be formed by representatives from the IUGG Country Members (titular members), a representative from CERESIS (Regional Center for Seismology for South America), and representatives from CERESIS countries which are not yet IUGG members (affiliate members).

Twelve countries are represented in the LACSC COUNCIL: Argentina (titular), Bolivia (titular), Brazil (titular), Chile (titular), Colombia (titular), Costa Rica (titular), Ecuador (affiliate), Mexico (titular), Paraguay (affiliate), Peru (titular), Trinidad-Tobago (affiliate), and Venezuela (affiliate).

The elected members of the first EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (2013-2014) are:

Carlos Vargas – Colombia (president)
Nora Sabbione – Argentina (Vice-President)
Marcelo Assumpção – Brazil (Secretary General)
Peter Suhadolc (IASPEI representative)
Hernando Tavera – Peru (member)
Marino Protti – Costa Rica (member)
A CERESIS representative (to be nominated by CERESIS).

IASPEI Regional Assembly, Colombia 2014

The participants of the LACSC meeting also approved a Regional IASPEI Assembly to be held in Bogotá, Colombia, in 2014.

The Local Organizing Committee will include: Carlos Vargas, Alexander Caneva, Hugo Monsalve, Gaspar Monsalve, and María Luis Bermudes.

The following people have agreed to be part of the Scientific Committee: Marcelo Assumpcao (Brazil), Patricia Alvarado (Argentina), Hernando Tavera (Peru), Marino Protti (Costa Rica), Franck Audemard (Venezuela), Mario Ruiz (Ecuador), Elkin Salcedo (Colombia), and Susan Beck (USA).

IASPEI welcomes the founding of the Latin America and Caribbean Seismology Commission: Let it live, grow and blossom!

Report on the

ECGS Workshop 2012 “Earthquake source physics on various scales”

Luxembourg, October 3-5 2012

The European Center for Geodynamics and Seismology organized the workshop “ECGS 2012: Earthquake source physics on various scales” that was held during three days, from 3 October 2012 until 5 October 2012, at the Alvisse Parc Hotel in Luxembourg City. The main objective of the workshop was to bring together leading scientists that work in the field of earthquake source physics and scaling in order to (1) obtain a comprehensive and state-of-the-art overview on the still highly controversial issue of earthquake scaling, (2) decipher the potential reasons for the observed discrepancies in various studies and consolidate the conflicting views and (3) foster collaborations of scientists working on all scales of earthquake source physics (from laboratory experiments up to the giant mega-thrust earthquakes) and define the steps that need to be taken in the on-going research activities in order to find solutions to the problems still encountered.

102 participants from 21 countries attended the meeting, with a large group of attendees from the USA and Japan. In order to provide the best possible state-of-the-art overview on the topic, six keynote lectures were given (see scientific program on www.ecgs.lu/source2012). Furthermore, strong emphasis was put on discussion and exchange of ideas among participants, since many issues remain to be clarified. For this reason, two “discussion” time slots were allocated to serve this need. The most important issues were specifically addressed in these debates.

A strong emphasis was put on supporting the participation of young researchers. For this reason, thirteen young scientists received grants to attend the workshop. These young researchers all presented leading-edge results. In total, six keynote lectures, twenty-eight oral and forty-eight poster presentations were given.

Besides the allocated budget from the European Center for Geodynamics and Seismology, the workshop was co-financed by the National Research Fund (FNR) Luxembourg, the Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) of the Council of Europe, and the National Museum of Natural History (Mnhn). The Seismological Society of America (SSA) and the International Association for Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior (IASPEI) provided support by helping to disseminate the advertisement for the workshop and lending the associations' names in co-sponsorship.

Scientific program

The workshop started with an overview session on the

seismic observations and the earthquake source-scaling problem on a variety of scales. This overview ranged from laboratory observations via mining-induced events up to the giant subduction-zone earthquakes. Following these presentations, a discussion session was held based on this state-of-the-art overview, with the title *Source scaling: same dataset, different answer – What's going on?!*

The second day of the meeting was then dedicated to another issue of major importance, namely the impact of the wide range of variability of earthquake source parameters on earthquake ground motion prediction, and, consequently, on the assessment of seismic hazard. For this session, Prof. Norman Abrahamson had been invited as a guest speaker. He presented the perspective of the engineering community on the seismologists' work on earthquake source physics studies and what steps need to be taken to improve the usability of the results from such studies for seismic hazard assessment. Further talks were focusing on the variability of source parameters, which is a highly important aspect for ground motion prediction models.

The last day of the meeting was finally dedicated to the insights into earthquake source physics gained from laboratory experiments and numerical simulations of the earthquake rupture process. Laboratory experiments have made strong advances over the past decade, enabling scientists to study nowadays the processes occurring in a fault zone during an earthquake rupture in their laboratory.

Finally, over the entire workshop, the 48 posters were continuously on display, in the same area where the coffee breaks and lunch breaks were held. This allowed for the maximum possible time to discuss the poster presentations. In particular, the poster introduction session on the first day was perceived very positively. It allowed the authors to briefly present the key points of their poster in a one minute/one slide oral presentation, and thus provide an overview to the participants of all the posters presented at the workshop.

Conclusions and major outcomes

The workshop provided an excellent platform for getting an overview of the current state-of-the-art research in earthquake source physics, and where the community stands in terms of the earthquake scaling controversy. Based on the presentations at the meeting, the participants came to the following conclusions and recommendations:

* Stress drop varies over 3 decades in amplitude for a large range of seismic moment.

* Individual earthquake sequences might show a trend for increasing stress drop with earthquake size.

* For understanding the physics underlying the scaling phenomenon, we must advance towards a better comprehension of the impact of the modeling techniques on the results. This is absolutely crucial for ground motion prediction and, consequently, for seismic hazard assessment.

As for the past ECGS workshop in 2010 (which dealt with induced seismicity), the concept of the workshop with keynote presentations (40 min.), regular presentations (20 min.), short poster announcements (1 slide / 1 min), discussions and debates, was a great success. There were lively discussions during the whole workshop, including the coffee breaks and the meals. The participants praised the open discussion atmosphere as well as the perfect organization. Finally, the workshop generated a wide range of ideas and initiatives, and these represent the most valuable outcome of the meeting. In order to keep up their momentum, the workshop website

www.ecgs.lu/source2012

will remain online and be dedicated to foster these initiatives.

Adrien Oth

The Million Death Quake The Science of Predicting Earth's Deadliest Natural Disaster by **Roger Musson**

Receive 20% off the RRP of *The Million Death Quake* by visiting www.palgrave.com and entering discount code XP356ED for USA and Canada orders and WIASPEI20* for UK and rest of the world at the checkout.

- Valid until 31st December 2012.

Disclaimer

The content of a book advertised in the Newsletters does not necessarily reflect IASPEI stands. IASPEI Executive Committee maintains the right to refuse without explanations the advertising of a given book in its Newsletters.

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.

APPROACHING DEADLINES

SSA2013 - Abstract submission: **10 January 2013**

AGU Meeting of the Americas – Abstract submission:
30 January 2013

SnT2013 - Call for papers: **1 February 2013**

IAHS-IAPSO-IASPEI2013 – Abstract submission:
4 February 2013

2013

EUG General Assembly 2013

April 07–12, 2013, Vienna, Austria

Website: <http://www.egu2013.eu/>

2013 Seismological Society of America Annual Meeting

17–19 April 2013, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

Website: <http://www.seismosoc.org/meetings/>

AGU Meeting of the Americas

14–17 May 2013, Cancun, Mexico

Website: <http://moa.agu.org/2013/>

CTBTO Science and Technology Conference (SnT2013)

17-21 June 2013, Vienna, Austria

Website: <http://www.ctbto.org/specials/snt2013/>

Joint Scientific Assembly of IAHS-IAPSO-IASPEI

July 22 – 26, Gothenburg, Sweden

Contact: iahs.iapso.iaspei2013@congrex.com

Website: www.iahs-iapso-iaspei2013.com

8th International Symposium on Rockbursts and Seismicity in Mines

September 2013, St.-Petersburg and Moscow, Russia

2014

ESC General Assembly 2014

(joint with EAEE, 2nd ECEES)

August 24–29, 2014, Istanbul, Turkey

ASC General Assembly 2014

2014, Manila, Philippines

LACSC Regional Assembly 2014

2014, Bogota, Colombia

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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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:

Int'l Association of Cryospheric Sciences [[IACS](#)]

Int'l Association of Geodesy [[IAG](#)]

Int'l Association of Hydrological Sciences [[IAHS](#)]

Int'l Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences [[IAMAS](#)]

Int'l Association for the Physical Sciences of the Oceans [[IAPSO](#)]

Int'l Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy [[IAGA](#)]

Int'l 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.