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## The 37<sup>th</sup> IASPEI Scientific Assembly Göteborg, Sweden July 22-26, 2013

### IASPEI GENERAL ASSEMBLY WAS A SUCCESS!

The 37<sup>th</sup> IASPEI General Assembly ([http://www.iaspei.org/gothenburg\\_2013/IASPEI\\_gothenburg\\_2013.html](http://www.iaspei.org/gothenburg_2013/IASPEI_gothenburg_2013.html)) was organized as a Joint Assembly of the three Associations IAHS, IAPSO and IASPEI in July 2013 in Gothenburg, Sweden (<http://iahs-iapso-iaspei2013.com/>). The 454 participants from 48 countries contributed to the success of the assembly by presenting 330 contributions and 200 posters within 36 symposia. 75 participants were supported with grants by IASPEI.

The Assembly started on Monday, July 22 with the IASPEI Opening Plenary ([http://www.iaspei.org/gothenburg\\_2013/plenary\\_presentations\\_2013.html](http://www.iaspei.org/gothenburg_2013/plenary_presentations_2013.html)). During the Plenary, the first IASPEI medal was awarded to Robin Adams (see his thanks speech below). In addition, two keynote lectures were presented by IASPEI President Domenico Giardini on GEM and by Roger Musson on the History of British Seismology. A third keynote lecture was given in the afternoon during the Joint Plenary by James Mori on drilling the plate boundary in the source region of the 2011 Tohoku-Oki earthquake. All three keynote lectures can be downloaded from [http://www.iaspei.org/gothenburg\\_2013/keynote\\_lectures\\_2013.html](http://www.iaspei.org/gothenburg_2013/keynote_lectures_2013.html).

## Foreword



Dear readers,

Our 2013 Scientific Assembly (with IAHS and IAPSO) in Gothenburg was successful and all participants expressed their satisfaction. Most of the documents related to the Assembly are on our website.

Our new Assistant Secretary Johannes Schweitzer briefly reports on the Assembly highlights.

During the Opening Plenary, the first IASPEI Medal was awarded to Robin Adams. You will find his thanks speech in this Newsletter.

Please keep on supporting all IASPEI activities!

**Peter Suhadolc**  
Secretary General

During the Assembly, the IASPEI Commissions and the IASPEI sponsored bodies also had their business meetings. Commission reports and reports from different working groups can be found on the Commission web-pages, respectively (<http://www.iaspei.org/commissions/commissions.html>). The new Chair of the Commission on Seismological Observation and Interpretation (CoSOI) is Thomas Meier (Germany); new Chair of the Commission on Earthquake Source Modeling and Monitoring for Prediction is Vladimir Smirnov (Russian Federation), the first Chair of the newly established Latin American and Caribbean Seismological Commission (LACSC) is Carlos Vargas, (Colombia) and the new Chair of the International Federation of Digital Seismograph Networks (FDSN) is Göran Ekström (USA).

On Friday, July 26, a round table discussion was held on "The role of scientists in the communication of risk: lessons from L'Aquila and international perspectives". Domenico Giardini presented an overview on the actual status of the L'Aquila case while Kenji Satake (Japan) and David Jackson (USA) explained how authoritative information to administrations and the public are organized in their countries in the case of an earthquake crisis. All three presentations can be found at [http://www.iaspei.org/gothenburg\\_2013/LAquila\\_Trial.html](http://www.iaspei.org/gothenburg_2013/LAquila_Trial.html). They were followed by a lively debate, for which the allocated time window in the assembly program proved to be too short.

The traditional IASPEI Dinner was held on Thursday, July 25 at the Ruckmans restaurant near Gothenburg. Pictures taken during the General Assembly and the IASPEI Dinner can be found at: [http://www.iaspei.org/gothenburg\\_2013/photo\\_gallery\\_1\\_2013.html](http://www.iaspei.org/gothenburg_2013/photo_gallery_1_2013.html).

During the Closing Plenary ([http://www.iaspei.org/gothenburg\\_2013/plenary\\_presentations\\_2013.html](http://www.iaspei.org/gothenburg_2013/plenary_presentations_2013.html)) three resolutions were adopted:

### **Resolution 1: Magnitude Standards**

**RECOGNISING** the importance of the magnitude standards proposed by the Working group on Magnitude measurements of the Commission on Seismological Observation and Interpretation and published in the New Manual of Seismological Observatory Practice (second edition),

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**RECOMMENDS** the station and network operators and data centres to adopt these standards in day to day operations, and

**ENCOURAGES** the developers of waveform processing programmes to incorporate these standards within their software packages.

### **Resolution 2: NMSOP**

**RECOGNISING** the importance of the New Manual of Seismological Observatory Practice, (NMSOP-2) both for education and observatory practice

#### **IASPEI**

**EXPRESSES** their appreciation to the Helmholtz Centre Potsdam GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences for hosting and maintaining this invaluable resource on their website.

### **Resolution 3: Appreciation**

**RECOGNISING** the enormous effort required to organise the Joint IAHS-IAPSO-IASPEI Assembly "Knowledge for the future",

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**THANKS and CONGRATULATES** the IAHS-IAPSO-IASPEI Local Organizing Committee and its Chair David Turner, as well as the Scientific Programme Committee and its Chair Leif Anderson, for a most memorable meeting in Gothenburg.

## IASPEI Medal

The IASPEI medal is awarded for merits in seismology: for sustaining IASPEI goals and activities and for scientific merits in the field of seismology and physics of the Earth's interior.



The first IASPEI medal was awarded during the Opening Plenary at the Scientific Assembly in Gothenburg to Robin Adams. Robin's acceptance speech is published here with his kind permission.



**Robin Adams, IASPEI Medalist 2013**

## THANKS SPEECH

by Robin Adams

Seismologists must have long memories! To many of you I will be an unfamiliar face, and I must confess that this is the first Assembly I have attended this century, but the older among you will remember that I was closely involved with all those in the last three decades of the last century. I am delighted to find here so many old friends who are still so active in our science.

My New Zealand roots have been a great help in my career. Earthquakes were never strange to me – I grew up feeling them – and as a 12-year old boy I experienced two intensity seven shocks six weeks apart. Another advantage was that being in a small country with only few seismologists, I had to become involved in all aspects of our science, observational, theoretical, engineering, social and political, so I entered my association with IASPEI with a broad knowledge, without too much specialisation in any one aspect – a seismological “Jack of all trades, but master of none”. Also growing up in a small, remote, country I appreciated the difficulties of fellow seismologists in similar countries with currency and resource limitations. Finally, during my time working in IASPEI it helped that although I was based in Europe I was still thought of as New Zealander, without the disadvantage of being associated with a major power.

Similarly, being based at the International Seismological Centre was a great advantage, with more freedom by not being bound by allegiance to any particular country, and I am particularly grateful to ISC for allowing me to combine my work there with duties for IASPEI, which did go together well, I hope with mutual benefit to both organisations. I am delighted to see that under the leadership of Dmitry Storchak. ISC is now moving into new fields of activity, not just continuing the tradition of providing the final end point of

global analysis, but participating in the development of modern seismology.

My first serious research was a study of deep New Zealand earthquakes, for which I relied heavily on readings from Scandinavia. This led to my first visit to Sweden in 1964 to visit Marcus Båth at Uppsala, and to my research interest in the structure of the core. In those days there were only very few of us interested in the core, but prominent among them, of course, was my old friend and colleague Bob Engdahl, with whom I have had a most fruitful association ever since. Bob has made an unrivalled contribution to IASPEI, having held all major offices, by my reckoning he served 28 years on the IASPEI Executive, and I feel that it could well be he, not I, standing here today.

I have not recently been as actively engaged in seismology as previously, but I still remember and value the bonds and friendships that developed among us – we used to be so few in number that we all knew each other and our families well, and wherever we travelled in the world we knew we would be welcomed by friends.

During my career I was particularly associated with three contemporaries, who were also colleagues and close friends – Bruce Bolt, Stephan Müller and Nick Ambraseys – the first two being Presidents of our Association. Sadly all are now dead, and as the surviving one I dedicate this award to them and earlier generations of seismologists, who laid the foundations on which our science and our Association continue to grow and flourish.

## **2014 IASPEI Regional Assembly of the Latin American and Caribbean Seismological Commission**

**Bogotá, Colombia, July 23-25, 2014**

Please mark your calendars for this date!



**LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SEISMOLOGY COMMISSION – LACSC**



**III LATIN-AMERICAN CONGRESS OF SEISMOLOGY**  
"Exploring induced microseismicity and its potential to trigger tectonic events"

**IV. COLOMBIAN CONGRESS OF SEISMOLOGY**  
"Advances in Colombian Seismology after 20 years of monitoring by the Colombian National Network"

**II LATIN-AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SYMPOSIUM ON GEOPHYSICS –**  
"Using microseismicity on exploration"

**July 23 – 25, 2014, Bogotá, Colombia**

## **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.

### **2013**

#### **IAS/AGU/IASPEI School on Reference Systems, Crustal Deformation and Ionosphere Modelling**

**21-23 October 2013, Panama City, Panama**

Website:

<http://www.sirgas.org/index.php?id=233>

#### **2nd Annual International Conference on Geological and Earth Sciences (GEOS 2013)**

**28-29 October 2013, Phuket, Thailand**

Website: <http://www.geoeearth.org/index.html>

#### **AGU Fall Meeting**

**December 9-13, 2013, San Francisco, USA**

URL: <http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2013/>

### **2014**

#### **European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2014**

**April 27 – May 02, 2014, Vienna, Austria**

URL: <http://www.egu2014.eu/>

### **Seismological Society of America (SSA) Annual Meeting**

30 April - 2 May 2014, Anchorage, Alaska,  
USA

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

### **Latin American Caribbean Seismological Commission (LACSC) Regional Assembly 2014**

July 23-25, 2014, Bogota, Colombia

URL: <http://geoslac.org/english/>

### **ESC General Assembly 2014**

(joint with EAEE, 2<sup>nd</sup> ECEES)

August 24–29, 2014, Istanbul, Turkey

URL: <http://www.2eceedistanbul.org>

### **ASC General Assembly 2014**

2014, Manila, Philippines

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

## **2015**

### **International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), General Assembly**

22 June-2 July, 2015, Prague, Czech  
Republic

URL: <http://www.iugg2015prague.com>

### **Seismological Society of America (SSA) Annual Meeting**

21-23 April 2015, Pasadena, California, USA

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

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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.

## **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 Matematica e Geoscienze

Universita' di Trieste

Via E. Weiss, 4

I-34128 Trieste, ITALY

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