

# IASPEI Newsletter

October 2023

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All Regional Commissions are planning their General Assemblies in 2024. We inform about these forthcoming Assemblies and add an announcement of ORFEUS.

Please do not forget to send me information or corrections about international conferences and workshops with IASPEI related topics. This list can only be complete and correct if I receive information about such events and can update the Meetings Calendar of future Newsletters.

Johannes Schweitzer  
Secretary General

## Foreword

Dear Readers,

I hope this Newsletter finds you all well.

This is the first Newsletter after the General Assemblies (GA) of IUGG and IASPEI in July 2023. It contains news from the successful General Assembly, with the election results for the members of the IASPEI Bureau and Executive Committee for the period 2023 – 2027 and the acceptance speech of this year's IASPEI Medalist Harsh K. Gupta.

Then, we inform about the initiative to form a group of Early Career Scientists (ECSs) in IASPEI and host an announcement of the Commission on Education and Outreach.

## 28<sup>th</sup> IUGG & 42<sup>nd</sup> IASPEI General Assembly Berlin 2023



**IUGG  
BERLIN 2023**

Member organizations: IACS, IAG, IAGA, IAHS, IAMAS, IAPSO, IASPEI, IAVCEI

**THE 28<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION  
OF GEODESY AND GEOPHYSICS**

The conference had more than 5000 registered participants from 105 different countries, of which about 750 gave IASPEI as their primary Association. 90 of the IASPEI participants were supported with waived registration fees and € 33,500 were distributed as supporting grants to participants of the Assembly.

The scientific program consisted in total of 208 symposia with 5000 abstracts submitted. IASPEI organized 21 IASPEI Symposia and 9 Joint Symposia and contributed to 21 Joint Symposia organized by the other IUGG Associations. All abstracts of these 51 Symposia will be made available on the IASPEI Assembly webpage.

During the IASPEI Opening Plenary on Friday, 12 July 2019, the 6<sup>th</sup> IASPEI medal was awarded to Harsh K. Gupta (see own Chapter in this Newsletter) and Torsten Dahm (Germany) gave an IASPEI keynote lecture with the title “Quaternary volcanic fields in Central Europe – activities and latent hazards” (for the slides see the IASPEI Assembly webpage).

During the Assembly, the IASPEI Commissions and the IASPEI-sponsored bodies also had their business meetings. The names of the current Commission chairs can be found on the Commission webpages.

The general interest in an **IASPEI Commission on Earth Structure and Geodynamics** has vanished during the last years and no new chair could be found. In addition, there is a large topical overlap with the IUGG Union Commission **Studies of Earth’s Deep Interior (SEDI)** (<https://iugg.org/associations-commissions/commissions/sedi/>), in which many seismologists are already active. Therefore, the IASPEI ExeCom decided in Berlin to declare the **Commission on Earth Structure and Geodynamics** as dissolved and asks the IASPEI membership to participate instead in SEDI activities.

The traditional IASPEI Social Dinner with almost 120 participants was held on Tuesday, 18 July 2023.

The General Assembly finished with the Closing Plenary on Wednesday, 19 July 2023. During this Plenary, the following members of the IASPEI Bureau and the IASPEI Executive Committee were elected for the period 2023 – 2027.

President:

**Michelle GROBBELAAR**  
(South Africa)

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President:

**Li LI** (China)

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President:

**Dmitry STORCHAK** (UK)

Secretary General / Treasurer:

**Johannes SCHWEITZER** (Norway)

Other IASPEI Executive Committee Members:

**Sergio BARRIENTOS** (Chile)

**Fiona Ann DARBYSHIRE** (Canada)

**Kenji SATAKE** (Japan)

(Past President)

**Christine THOMAS** (Germany)

**Hrvoje TKALČIĆ** (Australia)

At the end of the plenary, the participants unanimously endorsed the following IASPEI resolutions:

### *Resolution 1*

Seismic resilience and disaster preparedness in earthquake-prone countries

**RECOGNISING** the vulnerability of many countries around the world to earthquake hazard, such as the 2023 Türkiye-Syria earthquakes that led to almost 60 000 deaths,

### **IASPEI**

**SUGGESTS** the establishment of a dedicated working group (WG) to bring together experts from earthquake-prone countries to share experiences, best practices and lessons learned, in order to improve seismic risk reduction strategies.

**RECOMMENDS** that the topics of seismic risk

reduction strategies and earthquake resilience be increasingly considered in international training workshops, especially those involving scientists in emerging countries, in order to enhance the capacity of disaster preparedness in earthquake-prone countries.

### *Resolution 2*

**RECOGNISING** the enormous efforts required to prepare and run the 28<sup>th</sup> IUGG General Assembly,

### **IASPEI**

**THANKS** and **CONGRATULATES** the Local Organising Committee and its Chair, Prof. Harald SCHUH, as well as the Scientific Program Committee and its Chair, Prof. Jürgen MÜLLER, for their excellent organisation that has resulted in a memorable meeting.

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The next IASPEI Scientific Assembly will be held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, in August 2027.

More detailed information from the 42<sup>nd</sup> IASPEI General Assembly in Berlin, Germany, will be made available on the IASPEI Assembly webpage (<http://www.iaspei.org/assemblies-conferences>).

J. Schweitzer

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## **IASPEI Medal 2023**

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 IASPEI Medal 2023 was awarded during the Opening Plenary at the General Assembly in Berlin to Harsh K. Gupta.



### **Acceptance Speech by Harsh K. Gupta**

Thanks Andrzej for the wonderful laudation. It is indeed a great honour to receive the prestigious IASPEI Medal from Kenji Satake, IASPEI President and a long-time friend in the presence of Harald Schuh and Johannes Schweitzer. I am thrilled to see many friends and well-wishers in the audience. The first IUGG GA attended by me was in Canberra, Australia in 1979, on an invitation from Aton Hales. He had invited me to organize a symposium on water reservoir induced earthquakes. That was also the time that I got introduced to IASPEI, and that connectivity has continued till now. While receiving this prestigious medal, my thoughts go back to my initiation to seismology under the watchful tutelage of Mr. B. P. Saha at the Central Seismological Observatory, Shillong, India way back in 1963. Fortunately for me, the USGS Team arrived at Shillong in 1964 to set up a station under the World Wide Standard Seismograph (WWSSN) Program, and I was given the responsibility to assist them and to learn operation and maintenance of a WWSSN Station. Looking at the 27 March 1964 Alaska earthquake records and separating Rayleigh and Love waves which had gone around the

Earth several times got me glued to the study of seismograms - that has continued till today. Working at the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad, India beginning in 1964, under the stewardship of Hari Narain, was very encouraging. I was lucky to have worked with the pioneers of Seismology at Japan/USA/Germany/France/Russia including Yasuo Sato, Tetsuo Santo, Kiyoo Mogi, Seiya Uyeda, Carl Kisslinger, Keith Edward Bullen, Mark Landisman, Seweryn Duda, Claude Froidevaux, Alexey Nikolaev and several others. Working for IASPEI, I had the great fortune to learn and work with Robin Adams, Brian Kennett, and Bob Engdahl.

The work that started in 1967, after the occurrence of 10 December M 6.3 Koyna India earthquake, to comprehend occurrence of water reservoir triggered earthquakes continues. International Continental Drilling Program (ICDP) needs to be credited to accept that Koyna, India, is probably the best place in the world for near field study of triggered earthquakes. I must mention that Prof Rolf Emmermann, Chief of ICDP in 2010 was very positive. I met him for the first time in the summer of 2010 and explained to him all that we had done on reservoir triggered earthquakes and the need of borehole investigations in Koyna fault zone. This meeting fructified into a workshop with global participation and concurrence about the suitability of Koyna region for deep borehole investigations. Certain detailed studies that were suggested were completed in the next three years with the support of Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India. A go-ahead was given during the 2<sup>nd</sup> ICDP workshop in 2014 to drill a 3 km deep Pilot Borehole which was completed in 2017. Critical measurements and observations are being made. There has been a delay because of the COVID 2019 Pandemic. Hopefully, needful measurements and observations would be made leading to drilling a 7 km deep main borehole. Uli Harms, Thomas Weisberg and Marco Bohnhoff and several other colleagues from ICDP have contributed immensely.

Over the past few years, I have become very concerned about the fact that despite all the

scientific, technological and administrative developments, we have lost more human lives in the first 22 years of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century due to earthquakes and resultant tsunamis than the previous Century! This situation needs to be addressed. While working on earthquake scenarios I realize that if some of the earlier earthquakes repeat today, the loss of human lives would be immense. For example, a repeat of Mw ~8 earthquake like that of 1897 Shillong or a 1905 Kangra, in India could claim several hundred thousand human lives! This situation needs to be addressed. We need to develop earthquake resilient societies. A lot of effort in this direction is being made including awareness generation and technical support to ensure the safety of the buildings and communities. After the disastrous 26 December Mw 9.2 Sumatra earthquake and the resultant tsunami, that claimed over 250 thousand human lives in south and south-east Asia, India has succeeded in setting up the Indian Tsunami Early Warning System for the Indian Ocean that has been working very efficiently since 2007.

I must acknowledge Editorial Board Members (Kusumita Arora, Anny Cazenave, Bob Engdahl, Rainer Kind, Ajay Manglik, Sukanta Roy, Kalachand Sain and Seiya Uyeda) and over 300 authors who helped compiling the Encyclopaedia of Solid Earth Geophysics published by Springer in 2011. An overwhelming response and addition of new research necessitated compilation of the Second Edition of this Encyclopaedia, published in 2021.

At the end I shall like to thank my colleagues from all over the world, with whom I have worked for decades. I am very happy to find over 20 colleagues from the National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad, India, present in this award function.

My wife, Manju and daughters Nidhi and Benu have supported me all through, without which, I could not have done much.



## Establishing an Early Career Scientists (ECSs) Group of IASPEI

From July 11<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, the 29<sup>th</sup> IUGG conference took place in Berlin, Germany. The IUGG (International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics) is an international organization dedicated to advancing, promoting, and communicating knowledge of the Earth system, its space environment, and the dynamical processes causing change. The IUGG is comprised of eight associations, each responsible for a specific range of topics, of which IASPEI is one of these associations.



ECSs representatives of the eight associations, including IASPEI, at the IUGG

For the first time, Early Career Scientists (ECSs) activities across the eight associations have been organized at the IUGG, i.e., panel discussion and social evening event. The panel discussion, among others, revealed that the exchange between the ECSs part of IASPEI is rather low, compared to other associations. We - María del Puy Papí Isaba and Irina Dallo - thus decided to take the initiative and to start establishing an ECSs group among IASPEI members. Our overall vision is to

- (i) foster international exchange between IASPEI ECSs,
- (ii) increase the visibility of IASPEI activities for ECSs, and
- (iii) create spaces for IASPEI ECSs to exchange with each other at conferences and general assemblies.

We will start with establishing a network of ECSs and aim to have activities at the forthcoming conferences of the four Regional Commissions in 2024 (Asian Seismological Commission, European Seismological Commission, African Seismological Commission, and Latin American and Caribbean Seismological Commission). If you are an ECSs (= PhD + ~10 years) and would like to contribute actively to establishing this group or passively just be kept updated about the activities, please fill in this survey and indicate your interests: <https://ww3.unipark.de/uc/RISE/3f03/>. We will also organize a first virtual “Get-together” meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup>, for which you can sign up in the survey. We are also happy to receive further ideas and inputs.

Best,

María del Puy Papí Isaba and Irina Dallo

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## Commission on Education and Outreach

The Commission on Education and Outreach is currently seeking volunteers to assist with committee functions, planning, and execution of activities. The near-term focus is to engage early career scientists in all aspects of committee functions, including proposing training and outreach activities for the upcoming IASPEI meetings, including the Asian Seismological Commission (ASC), the African Seismological Commission (AfSC), the Latin American and Caribbean Seismological Commission (LACSC) San Jose, Costa Rica (2024), and the general IASPEI Scientific Assembly (Joint Assembly with IAGA) in Lisbon, Portugal (2025). All ideas are welcome. Please reach out to the current committee chairs for more information: Raju Sakar ([rajusarkar.iaspei@gmail.com](mailto:rajusarkar.iaspei@gmail.com)), Xyoli Perez Campos ([xyolipc@gmail.com](mailto:xyolipc@gmail.com)), Aaron Velasco ([aavelasco@utep.edu](mailto:aavelasco@utep.edu)).

## Latin American and Caribbean Seismological Commission (LACSC) – 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly



The Latin America and Caribbean Seismological Commission, LACSC, will be celebrated in San José, Costa Rica, in June 24 – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The Assembly will take place in the Radisson Hotel.

## European Seismological Commission (ESC) – 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly



The 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (GA) of the European Seismological Commission will be held at Corfu Holiday Palace, Corfu, Greece between 22 and 27 September 2024. The General Assembly of the European Seismological Commission is among the largest and most popular seismological meetings in Europe. It is a meeting ground for academics and researchers working in the field of seismology and related applications. Besides showcasing the most recent results and methodologies in earthquake science and Earth structure, it will also cover the applied and

social aspects of seismology, such as earthquake hazard and risk, earthquake engineering, education and awareness and risk prevention. The 2024 ESC meeting will emphasize the Mediterranean seismotectonics and seismic hazard, in particular the southern Mediterranean, aiming to foster stronger collaboration within the whole region. The General Assembly aims to attract a strong participation of young researchers as well as senior experts.

Further details and updates can be found on the ESC GA website: <https://escgreece2024.eu>.

The **call for session proposals** is currently open (**deadline: 15 November 2023**). The sessions will be related to the latest research, methodologies, technological developments and regional studies. This will allow for fruitful dialogue and new ideas. Sessions are encouraged from all the broad fields of seismology including, but not limited to:

- Seismic networks, data acquisition and processing
- Seismic hazard and risk, including site effects
- Physics of earthquakes
- Study of the Earth's interior
- Array seismology
- Engineering seismology
- Earthquake engineering
- Induced seismicity
- Seismic anisotropy
- Earthquake forecasting
- Statistical seismology
- Historical seismology and microseismology
- Recent significant earthquakes
- Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)
- Earthquake secondary effects (e.g., tsunamis and landslides)
- Education, outreach and societal implications.

The LOC also encourages multi-disciplinary sessions involving seismology. Please refer to the website for the details on how to propose your session.

The call for abstracts will be opened in mid-December 2023.

The ESC GA will be preceded by the traditional one-week long (16-20 September 2024) Peter Bormann Young Seismologist Training Course (YSTC). More information on the YSTC will be provided soon on the meeting webpage.

Contact: [info@escgreece2024.eu](mailto:info@escgreece2024.eu)

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## African Seismological Commission (AfSC) – 4<sup>th</sup> General Assembly



The 4<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the African Seismological Commission (AfSC) will be held in South Africa in October 2024.

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## Asian Seismological Commission (ASC) – 15<sup>th</sup> General Assembly



The 15<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Asian Seismological Commission (ASC) will be held in Antalya, Türkiye, November 2024.

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## ORFEUS FORUM

The European Infrastructure for seismic waveform data ORFEUS (<https://orfeus-eu.org/>), has established a "forum" to be used for announcements and discussions, that will replace all the current ORFEUS mailing lists. If not already done, you are encouraged to create a personal profile (using your name and surname) at [forum.orfeus-eu.org](http://forum.orfeus-eu.org). This will allow you to interact with the ORFEUS community at large, and to receive all relevant announcements from ORFEUS. Two hints to configure your profile: (a) in "Profile - Preferences - Emails", please choose "Enable mailing list mode" in order to be notified by email about forum activities; (b) in "Profile - Preferences - Tracking", please choose the categories that you would like to "watch" (section "Watched") in order to be notified of new activities in these categories (choosing all the public categories is recommended).

All the categories in the forum are accompanied by a brief description that should make their scope and usage rather clear.

You may get in touch with [orfeus\\_secretary@knmi.nl](mailto:orfeus_secretary@knmi.nl) if you have any questions or face any issues with the registration.

Carlo Virgilio Cauzzi, ORFEUS Secretary General

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## Meetings Calendar

We report below forthcoming meetings relevant to the interests of IASPEI scientists. If you are aware of events not listed below or changes regarding these events, please inform the Secretary General. The meeting calendar is also available on the IASPEI website.

### 2023

#### **Cargèse 2023 School on Subduction Zone Processes**

October 9 – 13, 2023, IESC, Corsica, France

URL:

<https://cargese2023school.sciencesconf.org/>

#### **20<sup>th</sup> WEGENER Assembly**

October 24 – 27, 2023, Sousse, Tunisia

URL: <https://congress-onm.tn>

#### **Early Career Scientists Group of IASPEI**

November 21, 2023, virtual meeting

URL: <https://ww3.unipark.de/uc/RISE/3f03/>

#### **AGU Fall Meeting**

December 11 – 15, 2023, San Francisco, California, USA

URL: <https://www.agu.org/Fall-Meeting>

### 2024

#### **EGU General Assembly 2024**

April 14 – 19, 2024, Vienna, Austria

URL: <https://www.egu24.eu/>

#### **SSA Annual Meeting 2024**

April 29 – May 3, 2024, Anchorage, Alaska, USA

URL: <https://meetings.seismosoc.org/>

#### **SEDI Meeting 2024**

June 23 – 28, 2024, Great Barrington, Western Massachusetts, USA

#### **21<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting AOGS**

June 23 – 28, 2024, Pyeongchang, Gangwondo, Rep. of Korea

URL:

<https://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2024/public.asp?page=home.asp>

#### **5<sup>th</sup> LACSC General Assembly**

June 24 – 28, 2024, San José, Costa Rica

#### **18<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Earthquake Engineering WCEE2024**

June 30 – July 5, 2024, Milan, Italy

URL: <https://www.wcee2024.it/>

#### **EMSEV 2024**

September 2024, Crete, Greece

#### **39<sup>th</sup> ESC General Assembly**

September 22 – 27, 2024, Corfu, Greece

URL: <https://www.escgreece2024.eu/>

#### **4<sup>th</sup> AfSC General Assembly**

October 2024, South Africa

#### **15<sup>th</sup> ASC General Assembly**

November 2024, Antalya, Türkiye

#### **AGU Fall Meeting**

December 2024, Washington, USA

URL: <https://www.agu.org/Fall-Meeting>

### 2025

#### **IASPEI 43<sup>rd</sup> Scientific Assembly as Joint Assembly with IAGA**

August 31 – September 6, 2025, Lisbon, Portugal

#### **AGU Fall Meeting**

December 2025, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

URL: <https://www.agu.org/Fall-Meeting>

### 2026

#### **AGU Fall Meeting**

December 2026, San Francisco, California, USA

URL: <https://www.agu.org/Fall-Meeting>



**2027**

**IASPEI 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**  
**IUGG 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**  
Incheon, Rep. of Korea

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## General Information about IASPEI

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

The other seven IUGG Associations are:

- International Association of Cryospheric Sciences [IACS]
- International Association of Geodesy [IAG]
- International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy [IAGA]
- 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 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 as joint meeting with one of the other Associations of IUGG.

### Participation in IASPEI Activities

Since July 2015, all scientists participating in IASPEI activities are counted as members of IASPEI (see <http://www.iaspei.org/about/statutes-and-by-laws>).

IASPEI welcomes all scientists throughout the world to join in seismological research.

IASPEI is subdivided into several 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 websites. 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 website gives, or provides links to, information on the range of IASPEI activities

### The IASPEI Website

The IASPEI website is hosted by the International Seismological Centre (ISC) in Thatcham, UK and 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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