

# IASPEI Newsletter

April 2026

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This list can only be complete and correct if I receive information about such events and can update the Meetings Calendar of future Newsletters.

All the best,

Johannes Schweitzer  
Secretary General

## Foreword

Dear Readers,

I hope this Newsletter finds you all well.

In this short Newsletter, we repeat the calls for Symposia proposals during the forthcoming General Assembly in Incheon, South Korea, in 2027 and for bids to host the 45<sup>th</sup> Scientific Assembly of IASPEI in 2029.

Then follow some information regarding the 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the African Seismological Commission (AfSC) and the IUGG call for bids to host the 2031 IUGG General Assembly, which will also be the 46<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of IASPEI.

Then, I must inform you with great sadness that one of our colleagues passed away. We remember him with an obituary.

Please do not forget to send me information or corrections about international conferences and workshops with IASPEI related topics.

## The 2027 IUGG / IASPEI General Assembly – Call for Symposia Proposals

The preparation work for the 29<sup>th</sup> IUGG and 44<sup>th</sup> IASPEI General Assemblies in Incheon, Rep. of Korea, 16 – 22 July 2027, has fully started and at this point the most important issue is to decide on the scientific program and planned Symposia that the abstract submission can be opened in September / October 2026.

We will have two types of Symposia: IASPEI alone Symposia and Joint Symposia together with other IUGG Associations.

If you have an idea for an interesting topic of a Joint or an IASPEI alone Symposium, please contact the Secretary General **until 20 April 2026** by sending the Symposium title with a short description and a list of possible conveners to [iaspei@norsar.no](mailto:iaspei@norsar.no).

The final list of Symposia will be decided by the Scientific Program Committee (SPC) consisting of the IUGG and Association Secretary Generals and members of the LOC in South Korea.

Johannes Schweitzer

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## The 2029 IASPEI Scientific Assembly – Call for Hosting Bids

IASPEI is seeking a venue for its 45<sup>th</sup> Scientific Assembly in 2029.

In the case that you would like to invite the IASPEI community to your country and host the Assembly, please contact the Secretary General and your IASPEI National Correspondent to discuss your idea. The official bid must formally be submitted by the National Correspondent.

The IASPEI ExeCom will then decide among all received bids for the 2029 venue latest during the General Assembly in Incheon, in 2027.

Johannes Schweitzer

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## 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the African Seismological Commission (AfSC 2026) – Call for Abstracts

The abstract submission for the AfSC 2026 is NOW OPEN!

The African Seismological Commission invites you to be part of something truly historic. AfSC 2026, hosted by the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, 30 November – 3 December 2026.

5<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
**AFRICAN SEISMOLOGICAL COMMISSION**  
JOINTLY HOSTED BY  
OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY &  
CENTRE FOR GEODESY AND GEODYNAMICS  
**1<sup>ST</sup> CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**  
Abstract Submission Opens: 1st of February, 2026  
Deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2026  
VENUE: OAK Park, African Centre of Excellence,  
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria  
LOC: Chairman: Olatunbosun Adedayo Alao, NNPC/Renaissance JV Professor of Geophysics, Department of Geology, OAU, Ile-Ife.  
Co-chairman: Dr. Umar Afegbua Kadiri, Centre for Geodesy and Geodynamics (CGG), Toro (Earthquake Seismologist).  
Coordinator: Dr. ELUYEMI Adekunle Ayodeji, Centre for Energy Research and Development (CERD), OAU, Ile-Ife.  
Submission: afsc2026.oauife.edu.ng

Three days of inspiring talks, hands-on workshops, cutting-edge science, and powerful networking — all focused on seismology in Africa, by Africa, for Africa and the world.

Whether you're studying earthquake hazards, seismic monitoring, geodynamics, early warning systems, or the societal impacts of seismicity — your voice belongs here.

We especially welcome:

- Early career researchers & students
- Women in geosciences
- Scientists from every corner of the African continent
- International colleagues working on African seismology or collaborative projects

This is your chance to present your research, connect with leading experts, build lasting collaborations, and help shape the future of earthquake science across our continent.

Submit your abstract today and join a vibrant community committed to advancing seismology where it matters most.

Full details, themes & submission guidelines: <https://lnkd.in/dsEJCwBb>

Don't miss this opportunity to make your mark at the premier seismology gathering in Africa.

Brassnavy Manzunzu, Secretary General AfSC

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## 30<sup>th</sup> IUGG General Assembly 2031 – Call for Hosting Bids

Proposals to host the 30<sup>th</sup> IUGG General Assembly in 2031 are now being accepted and must be submitted to the IUGG Secretariat ([secretariat@iugg.org](mailto:secretariat@iugg.org)) by 15 January 2027 (six months before the next General Assembly, consistent with IUGG By-Law 3.4 a).

The guidelines for the proposals are now available at [https://iugg.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Guidelines\\_IUGG\\_GAs.pdf](https://iugg.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Guidelines_IUGG_GAs.pdf). All proposals will be evaluated by the Site Comparison Committee (<https://iugg.org/about/committees/>), and a report will be given to the IUGG Council before its final vote.

The IUGG Council, at its meeting during the 29<sup>th</sup> IUGG General Assembly in Incheon, Rep. of Korea, 16-22 July 2027, will make the final selection of the venue of the 30<sup>th</sup> IUGG General Assembly.

Franz Kuglitsch, IUGG Executive Secretary

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## Obituary

### Ralph Hänel (1935 – 2025)



On December 19, 2025, German Geophysicist and heat flow expert Ralph Waldemar Hänel, born 19 May 1935, passed away, at the age of 90. He was known for his precision and straightforwardness in life, both professionally and personally. To some, he may therefore have seemed somewhat stiff - a typical representative, so to speak, of the somewhat bureaucratic Geological Survey (NifB, GGA) in Hanover. However, those who knew how to interpret the sparkle in his eyes understood that this was a form of camouflage which he used to conceal his friendly, affectionate nature and his free spirit, depending on the situation and surroundings.

After finishing primary school, completing an apprenticeship, and working as a machinist, all in his native city of Dresden, he earned his high school diploma in Freiberg (Saxony) in 1955. He then moved on to study geophysics at the mining academies in Freiberg and, after having left East Germany, in Clausthal. He completed his studies in 1961 with a thesis on the design principles of a shaking table for calibrating geophones.

He then moved to Hannover in 1961, where he began and continued his scientific career until his retirement on January 1, 1998. Initially, he worked in the Seismology Division of the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR). But from 1965 onwards he worked at the Lower Saxony Geological Survey (NlfB), where he headed the Geothermal Division until 1986. During this time, he collected temperature and heat flow data in Germany as well as abroad. This allowed him to estimate geothermal resources and reserves as well as potential uses of geothermal energy. In addition, he developed probes for marine and lacustrine heat flow measurements.

At the same time, he wrote his dissertation, "Studies for assessing the terrestrial heat flow in Inland Lakes" and was awarded the doctoral degree (Dr. rer. nat.) from the Clausthal University of Technology in 1968. In 1973, he started teaching at the Institute of Applied Geophysics, Petrology, and Mineral Resources Research at the Technical University of Berlin. He completed his habilitation there in 1980, received the *venia legendi* in geophysics, and was appointed adjunct professor of geophysics in 1986.

From 1989 to 1991, Hänel headed the Geophysics Division of the NLFB's Geoscientific Task Force Department, which later became the Leibniz Institute for Applied Geophysics in Hanover. In the wake of the unification of both Germanies, this period was marked by an expansion of the Joint Geoscientific Task Force Department, which he directed from 1992 to 1998 until his retirement. During this time, he initiated and led the large-scale project "Groundwater Quality Development in the Lignite Mining Areas of the New Federal States" (GBL), which was funded by the federal Treuhand Agency. Furthermore, he actively supported the establishment of the geological surveys in the new federal states and the safeguarding of geoscientific data repositories.

In the Federal Republic of Germany's Continental Deep Drilling Program, he directed the borehole geophysics working group with great dedication from 1986 to 1989. From 1975

to 1989, he served as an expert rapporteur for the European Commission, evaluating geothermal research projects. From 1975 until 1987, he was a member of the International Heat Flow Commission of IASPEI. In 1978, he co-founded the Training Center for Geothermal Energy in Reykjavik (Iceland) for the United Nations University, headquartered in Shibuya (Japan). From 1991 to 1997, he served the German Geophysical Society (DGG) as Designated Chair, Chair, and Vice-Chair.

Together with Oskar Kappelmeyer, he authored the book *Geothermics* in 1974, and with Ladislaus Rybach and Lajos Stegena he edited the "Handbook of terrestrial heat-flow density determination" in 1988, which still form standard references on geothermal processes. Hänel authored over 100 technical articles in scientific journals and was the author, co-author, and editor of monographs on geothermal energy and atlases on geothermal energy in Europe. This, along with his research – particularly his geothermal measurements in Germany, Israel, and Norway – established his high international reputation. In 1995, recognizing his contributions to the publication of atlases on subsurface temperatures and geothermal potentials in Europe, the German Geothermal Association awarded him the Patricius Plaque.

In his retirement, he was struck by a serious illness, which he bore with great discipline, as was his nature. He follows his wife, who passed away one year earlier, and leaves behind a daughter, a son, and three grandchildren.

His colleagues and doctoral students, among whom we were privileged to be included, owe him a great deal and will honor his memory.

Heiner Villinger (University of Bremen) and Christoph Clauser (RWTH Aachen)

# 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.

## 2026

### 16<sup>th</sup> ASC General Assembly

April 25 – 30, 2026, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

URL: <https://asc2026.uz/>

### EGU26

May 3 – 8, 2026, Vienna, Austria

URL:

<https://www.egu.eu/meetings/calendar/egu/>

### IHFC Heat Flow Summer School 2026

May 9 – 16, 2026, İzmir, Türkiye

URL: [https://www.ihfc-](https://www.ihfc-iugg.org/community/summerschool/summerschool-2026)

[iugg.org/community/summerschool/summerschool-2026](https://www.ihfc-iugg.org/community/summerschool/summerschool-2026)

### JpGU-AGU Joint Meeting 2026

May 24 – 29, 2026, Chiba, Japan

URL: <https://www.agu.org/events/approved-events/jpgu-2026>

### 6<sup>th</sup> International Workshop “Seismic Anisotropy, Heterogeneity and Dynamics of the Lithosphere-Asthenosphere System (ADLAS)”

May 25 – 29, 2026, Liblice, Czech Rep.

URL: <https://www.ig.cas.cz/en/international-workshop-seismic-anisotropy-heterogeneity-and-dynamics-of-the-lithosphere-asthenosphere-system/>

### 2<sup>nd</sup> International Workshop on Swarm-like Seismicity

June 1 – 5, 2026, Ecole de Physique des Houches, France

URL: <https://swarms2.sciencesconf.org/>

### SEDI 2026

June 29 – July 3, 2026, Townsville, QLD, Australia

URL:

<https://sites.google.com/view/sedi2026/home>

### Goldschmidt 2026

July 12 – 17, 2026, Montreal, Canada

URL:

<https://conf.goldschmidt.info/goldschmidt/2026/meetingapp.cgi>

### AOGS 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting 2026

August 2 – 7, 2026, Fukuoka, Japan

URL:

<https://www.asiaoceania.org/AOGS2026/Home>

### VI LACSC General Assembly

August 3 – 7, 2026, Mexico City, Mexico

URL: <https://lacsc2026.enesmorelia.unam.mx>

### 12<sup>th</sup> SCAR Open Science Conference

August 8 – 19, 2026, Oslo, Norway

URL: <https://scar2026.org/>

### 40<sup>th</sup> ESC General Assembly

September 6 – 11, 2026, Istanbul, Türkiye

URL: <https://esc2026.org/>

### 2<sup>nd</sup> IUGG Symposium on Planetary Sciences (IUGG-PS 2026)

September 21 – 23, 2026, Wuhan, China

URL: <https://iugg-ps2026.com>

### Charting the Future of Ocean Passive Acoustics: From observations to science and management (2026)

September 22 – 24, 2026, Oostende, Belgium

URL: <https://www.iqoe.org/workshops/future-ocean-pam>

### TIGER Symposium in Geodesy 2026 – Linking Geodesy and Seismology

September 28 – October 1, 2026, Gävle, Sweden & online

URL:

<https://geodesy.science/com3/meetings/tiger-symposium-2026/>

### 21<sup>st</sup> Wegener Assembly

October 13 – 15, 2026, Tirana, Albania

URL: <https://wegener2026.sciencesconf.org/>

### SSA Fall Topical: Optical Seismology and the Next Era in Seismic Sensing

October 13 – 16, 2026, Kona, Hawaii, USA

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

**7<sup>th</sup> IASPEI / IAEE International Symposium on the Effect of Surface Geology on Seismic Motion (ESG)**

October 19 – 21, 2026, Grenoble, France  
URL: <https://esg2026.inviteo.fr/inscriptions/>

**2026 International Symposium on Deep Earth Exploration and TopoAsia**

November 7 – 9, 2026, Beijing, China  
Contact: [meeting@topoasia.org](mailto:meeting@topoasia.org)

**5<sup>th</sup> AfSC General Assembly**

November 30 – December 3, 2026, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

URL: <https://afsc2026.oauife.edu.ng/>

**AGU26**

December 7 – 11, 2026, San Francisco, California, USA  
URL: <https://www.agu.org/annual-meeting>

**2027**

**EGU General Assembly 2027**

April 4 – 9, 2027, Vienna, Austria  
URL: <https://www.egu.eu/meetings/calendar/egu/>

**SSA Annual Meeting 2027**

April 20 – 23, 2027, Seattle, Washington, USA  
URL: <https://meetings.seismosoc.org/>

**Active and Passive Seismics in Laterally Inhomogeneous Media III (APSLIM 2027)**

June 7 - 11, 2027, Nové Hradý Castle, Czech Republic  
URL: <http://eagelc.cz/APSLIM.html>

**IASPEI 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
IUGG 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

July 16 – 22, 2027, Incheon, Rep. of Korea  
URL: <https://iugg2027korea.org/>

**AOGS 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting 2027**

July 25 – 30, 2027, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore

**AGU27**

December 13 – 17, 2027, Washington, D.C., USA  
URL: <https://www.agu.org/annual-meeting>

**2028**

**EGU General Assembly 2028**

April 23 – 28, 2028, Vienna, Austria  
URL: <https://www.egu.eu/meetings/calendar/egu/>

**AOGS 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting 2028**

July 23 – 28, 2028, Shenzhen, China

**AGU28**

December 11 – 15, 2028, San Diego, California, USA  
URL: <https://www.agu.org/annual-meeting>

**2029**

**EGU General Assembly 2029**

April 8 – 13, 2029, Vienna, Austria  
URL: <https://www.egu.eu/meetings/calendar/egu/>

**IASPEI 45<sup>th</sup> Scientific Assembly**

**The call is open for bids to host the Assembly!!!**

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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, <http://www.iugg.org/>).

The other seven IUGG Associations are:

- International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (<http://www.cryosphericciences.org/>)
- International Association of Geodesy (<http://www.iag-aig.org/>)
- International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (<http://www.iaga-aiga.org/>)
- International Association of Hydrological Sciences (<https://iahs.info/>)
- International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences (<http://www.iamas.org/>)
- International Association for the Physical Sciences of the Oceans (<http://www.iugg.org/iapso/>)
- International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (<https://www.iavceivolcano.org/>)

## Scientific Assemblies

IASPEI holds an Ordinary General Assembly every four years in conjunction with each Ordinary General Assembly of IUGG. In the middle between the General Assemblies, IASPEI holds a Scientific Assembly, sometimes as joint meeting with one of the other IUGG Associations.

## 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, some 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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