

Annual Report 2020 – IASPEI

1. SHORT INTRODUCTION OF ASSOCIATION

The International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior (IASPEI) is the leading international association promoting studies in seismology, earthquake processes, and structure and ongoing geodynamical processes within the Earth's interior. IASPEI achieves its goals primarily through scientific conferences organized by IASPEI and its Commissions, but also sponsors other international initiatives, fosters international cooperation, both in monitoring of seismic sources and research, and education activities, especially in countries that are working towards full scientific development.

Most IASPEI efforts during 2020 were directed towards the Assemblies of IASPEI's four Regional Commissions planned for 2020 and preparations for the 3rd Joint IAGA-IASPEI Scientific Assembly planned for Hyderabad, India in 2021. However, almost all IASPEI activities planned for 2020 were canceled or postponed due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the related world-wide restrictions on traveling.

2. ADMINISTRATION

- EC & Bureau meetings

There were no meetings of neither the Bureau nor the Executive Committee (EC) in 2020. There were however regular e-mail exchanges regarding questions on financial support or business to be attended to with the members of the IASPEI Bureau and EC throughout the year.

- Changes in administration (setting up of new Commissions, Working Groups, etc., or termination of old Commissions, Working Groups, etc.)

No changes.

- Other matters

Website. The IASPEI website has the address <http://iaspei.org>.

Statutes. The IASPEI statutes and by-laws were not changed in 2020. IASPEI is registered as a Norwegian organization (Norwegian Org. Number 916 047 495).

Newsletters. IASPEI Newsletters have been regularly sent as PDF-file attachments to more than 3000 e-mail addresses. The Newsletters are also available for download from the IASPEI website. Three Newsletter issues as well as two circulars for the forthcoming 3rd Joint IAGA-IASPEI Scientific Assembly were distributed in 2020.

3. ACTIVITIES

- Scientific Assemblies, Workshops/Symposia etc.

The 3rd General Assembly of the African Seismological Commission (AfSC) was originally planned to be held in Kasane (Botswana) for June/July 2020. The Assembly was first postponed to December 2020, and then had to be postponed again to September 2021.

The 13th General Assembly of the Asian Seismological Commission (ASC) was originally planned to be held in Sharm el-Sheikh (Egypt), in June 2020. The Assembly was postponed to 2021 and will now be part of the 3rd Joint IAGA-IASPEI Scientific Assembly in Hyderabad, India, in August 2021.

The 4th General Assembly of the Latin American and Caribbean Seismological Commission (LACSC) was originally planned to be held in Quito (Ecuador), in August 2020. The Assembly had to be cancelled. A new date and location will be decided in early 2021.

The 37th General Assembly of the European Seismological Commission (ESC) was originally planned to be held in Corfu (Greece), in September 2020. The Assembly was postponed and will be held as a fully virtual conference in September 2021.

Several IASPEI related or supported Workshops and Summer Schools planned for 2020 were cancelled or postponed to a later date.

- Activities of Association Commissions, Working Groups, Divisions, Services etc.

Some 2,000 hard copies of the first printed edition of the IASPEI New Manual of Seismological Observatory Practice (NMSOP, 2002) are currently being used in more than 100 countries at seismological observatories, data and analysis centers, and for teaching, research, and field applications. In addition, it is used as basic material within national and international seismology training courses, or by private enterprises and individual scientists. In 2014, a rigorously updated and amended electronic second edition, NMSOP-2, was completed and put online, thanks to the efforts of the late Peter Bormann. This version, as well as future ones, are professionally maintained, further developed and edited by the GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences under a long-term commitment and the auspices of IASPEI and its Commission on Seismological Observation and Interpretation (CoSOI). All versions are freely available and downloadable from the web-site of the GFZ Library (<http://bib.telegrafenberg.de/publizieren/vertrieb/nmsop/>).

In 2019, the IASPEI Commission on Education and Outreach (CoEO) signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with the Commission and the National Science and Technology Center for Disaster Reduction (NCDR) in Chinese Taipei to formalize a collaborative and academic relationship in disaster risk reduction between CoEO-IASPEI and NCDR. As part of this cooperation a P-alert system had been installed in Bhutan after a training course “Earthquake Early Warning Systems and Rain-gauges for Bhutan” in New Delhi, India at the end of 2019 and is now operative since January 2020.

The IASPEI Working Group “Historical Seismology” under the IASPEI Commission on Seismological Observation and Interpretation (CoSOI) planned and published a Focus Section “Past and Present of Historical Earthquake Data and Research” in the Seismological Research Letters in August 2020. It consists of 21 articles on studies of earthquakes from medieval times to the 20th century in more than 10 countries distributed in South, Central, and North America, Far and Southeast Asia, Europe and the Mediterranean.

- Scientific Programs, Projects, Publications

In 2020, IASPEI continued to financially support the work of the Inter-Association Working Group on Electromagnetic Studies of Earthquakes and Volcanoes (EMSEV).

- Awards/Anniversaries/Obituaries

Awards

The **IASPEI Medal** is awarded for distinguished contributions 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 Medal is awarded every 2nd year during the IASPEI Assemblies. The next award is planned for 2021.

In 2016, the IASPEI Bureau established an **IASPEI Early Career Scientist Award** program aimed at engaging excellent young researchers in the IASPEI community. Each of the four IASPEI Regional Commissions was asked to select one Early Career researcher (graduate student, postdoctoral researcher, pre-tenure faculty member) from their commission at each even-year Assembly of that Regional Commission. Since none of the Regional Commissions had its planned Assembly in 2020, no new **IASPEI Early Career Scientist Award** was distributed.

Obituaries

Obituaries for prominent scientists of the IASPEI community were regularly published in the IASPEI Newsletters and on the IASPEI webpage.

4. PLANNED FUTURE ACTIVITIES/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

2021 will become a quite busy year for IASPEI:

- In 2021, the IASPEI main activity will concentrate on the 3rd Joint IAGA-IASPEI Scientific Assembly planned for 21 – 27 August 2021 in Hyderabad, India (<http://www.iaga-iaspei-india2021.in/>). Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Assembly is now organized a virtual meeting.
- Three of the Regional Commissions of IASPEI (AfSC, ASC, ESC) are planning to hold in 2021 their Assemblies, originally planned for 2020:
 - ASC plans its 13th General Assembly as a virtual meeting together with the 3rd Joint IAGA-IASPEI Scientific Assembly in August 2021.
 - AfSC plans its 3rd General Assembly in Kasane (Botswana), in September.
 - ESC plans its 37th General Assembly as a virtual meeting in Greece, in September.