IASPEI RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND, 21 JANUARY 1994

1. Asian Seismological Commission

Noting the very large population and earthquake hazard in Asia and the need to improve cooperation between Asian and Pacific nations, IASPEI endorses the formation of an Asian Seismological Commission to promote academic exchange, cooperation, upgrading of seismological research and strengthening measures to mitigate disasters.

2. Seismic Hazard

Noting the growing threat of great earthquakes and tsunamis and to life and economic welfare in a great many countries of the world, recognising that catastrophic loss of life, property damage, and social and economic disruption could be significantly reduced by a major international program that develops further scientific and engineering knowledge, extends technology transfer and technical assistance, and accelerates education and training world-wide,
considering the establishment of an International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) for the period 1990 to 2000 as a highly cost effective program,
IASPEI urges the United Nations, ICSU, all concerned nations and all relevant scientific, engineering and socio-economic organisations, to increase priorities for earthquake disaster mitigation and provide adequate support and leadership.

3. Global Seismic Hazard Assessment Program

Considering the establishment of the International Decade of Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) by the United Nations (UN), the adoption of the Global Seismic Hazard Assessment Program (GSHAP) by the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), the endorsement of GSHAP as a demonstration project by the Scientific and Technical Committee of the UN Decade, and
recognising the increased need to cooperate in the field of global seismic hazard assessment and the experience and expertise IASPEI has accumulated in this field through its Commissions, Subcommissions and Working groups, IASPEI endorses the GSHAP initiative, supports the establishment of international test areas under the supervision of Regional Centres, urges assistance to GSHAP in the establishment of standards and guide-lines applicable within the time frame of the Decade.

4. Earthquake Risk

Recognising the great need to expand and emphasise seismological interest in risk and loss assessment, IASPEI endorses the efforts of the Sub-Commission on Earthquake Hazard and Risk to initiate pilot projects on local and regional scales to test and develop methodologies, techniques and procedures for realistic assessment of earthquake risk. Current candidates for test areas are 1) the Gulf of Aqaba/Eilat and 2) Central America.

5. Macroseismic Data

Considering the increased importance of historical and macroseismic data for the assessment of long-term seismicity and seismic hazard and the need for a homogeneous updated data set, IASPEI recommends that standard criteria be established in order to organize regional macroseismic data banks.

6. Regional Cooperation

Recognising the vital importance of regional cooperation in seismology, and particularly in establishing common recording and analysis techniques throughout specific regions, IASPEI commends the holding of regional training workshops, and urges sponsoring agencies to continue to support such workshops in appropriate regions.

7. Digital Processing of Routine Data

Recognising the rapidly growing fraction of seismological observatories operating digital seismograph equipment, and
noting that seismological parameters measured from digital data are highly dependent on the procedures used in processing data prior to analysis, for example, interactive software, IASPEI urges all seismological agencies adopt new protocols governing the measurement of routine seismological parameters from digital waveform data, including the processing of waveform data prior to analysis, to be developed under the guidance of the Commission on Practice.

8. Magnitude Calibrating Functions

Noting that broadband observations of seismic waves are gaining importance in studies of source parameters and of the earth structure, as well as in seismological practice, and that the concept of magnitude is expected to continue to play a significant role in the future, IASPEI suggests that tests of the new calibrating functions developed by the Working Group on Magnitude Calibration Functions be considered for inclusion in the International Seismological Observing Period project (ISOP) with the aim of verifying the theoretical functions with high-standard empirical observations.

9. Federation of Digital Seismographic Networks

Recognising the successful efforts conducted by the members of the Federation of Digital Seismographic Networks (FDSN) to achieve a global coverage of state-of-the-art broad-band stations, IASPEI commends these efforts, and endorses

a) the continuing attempt to improve the global coverage by deploying stations in remote areas, ocean islands and on the sea floor, and
b) the need for denser coverage in continental areas for high-resolution studies of regional seismicity and Earth structure.

10. Communication

Recognising the need to maximise the interaction between participants at General Assemblies and the very effective arrangements at this meeting IASPEI urges that poster displays should be placed adjacent to the location of oral presentations.

11. Appreciation

Recognising the effort required to organise a General Assembly
IASPEI thanks and congratulates the members of the Local Organising Committee for a memorable meeting in Wellington.