

IN THIS ISSUE

Foreword.....1
 9th ASC General Assembly, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia1
 NMSOP-2 version released on website.....2
 Obituaries..... 3
 Job opportunities4
 Meetings Calendar 4
 General Information about IASPEI..... 5



**The 9th General Assembly of the Asian Seismological Commission
 Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
 September 17-20, 2012**



Foreword

Dear readers,

This short version of the IASPEI Newsletter we give, as promised in the last issue, some basic information on the upcoming September ASC General Assembly in Ulaanbaatar,

Mongolia.

A recent update of the well-known and extremely useful New Manual of Seismological Observation Practice has been recently posted on the IASPEI website. Peter Bormann's contribution gives us some information about it.

Enjoy reading the Newsletter and do contribute to it with short papers and announcements!

Peter Suhadolc
 Secretary General

Please note:

I am sending out the Newsletter as an attachment to an e-mail, trying to limit its size.

It can also be downloaded from the IASPEI website:

<http://www.iaspei.org/newsletters/newsletters.html>

The IASPEI Newsletter is distributed to National Correspondents and other national representatives we know of, to all IASPEI officers, to IASPEI scientists who attended recent IASPEI Assemblies, and to various research organisations in countries around the world.

The 9th General Assembly of Asian Seismological Commission will be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 17 to 20 September 2012. The National Emergency Management Agency and Mongolian Academy of Sciences are organizing this Assembly.

In 2011 the Government of Mongolia has set up a Permanent Council for coordination of all Government and non-government organisations activities on earthquake disaster reduction field. This Assembly is going to be held under auspices of this Permanent Council. The Chairman of this Permanent Council is M. Enkhbold, the Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia. The Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) are B. Enkhtuvshin, President of Mongolian Academy of Sciences, the Co-Chairmen are Ts. Amgalanbayar, National Emergency Management Agency and U. Sukhbaatar, Director of RCAG, the Secretaries are Colonel S. Tsogtbaatar, Head of Disaster Fighting Department of National Emergency Management Agency and Prof. S. Demberel, Scientific Secretary of RCAG.

The LOC has decided to adopt a program framework, which is based on linking together into ten sessions:

- Session 1. Seismic monitoring, data analysis products
- Session 2. Strong ground motion, earthquake hazard and risk
- Session 3. Seismic sources and prediction
- Session 4. Earth structure, geodynamics and seismotectonics

- Session 5. Tsunami, subduction zone and volcano
- Session 6. Seismic monitoring of mine environments
- Session 7. Outreach, society and cooperation
- Session 8. Special session (seismic activity around Ulaanbaatar city)
- Session 9. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO)
- Session 10. Scientific and Industrial Exhibition

Grants

Limited grants will be made available by the Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia and LOC to support participants in the General Assembly of the ASC 2012. These grants are provided to eligible candidates on the basis of financial needs and scientific contribution to the Assembly. Two different types of grants are available for the participants:

1. The Young Scientists grant of Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia

There are a limited number of grants to support young scientists who are going to make an oral or poster presentation at the General Assembly of the ASC 2012. Young scientists will receive full support covering the following expenses: two way lowest-fare economy class flight ticket, hotel room and meals during the conference.

2. The LOC grant

The LOC will provide 40 grants for scientists who are going to make an oral or poster presentation at the General Assembly of the ASC 2012. These scientists will receive support for accommodation (hotel and meals during the conference) but **not for travel cost**.

Deadline for abstract submission is 15th May 2012.

The organisation of such big international scientific meeting in Mongolia gives us a good chance of receiving consultancy and experience from top scientists of Asia and the world, of enhancing our activity on earthquake disaster reduction field, of developing the National earthquake response plan as well as of improving the education and public outreach measures in Mongolia.

We invite all the scientists, especially the younger generation to participate in the 9th General Assembly of ASC. Welcome to Mongolia!

The first circular can be downloaded from the Assembly website: <http://www.asc2012.org/>

Contributed by S. Demberel and R.K. Chadha

2nd edition of the IASPEI New Manual of Seismological Observatory Practice on the Web!

Since March 2012, the larger parts of an updated and significantly amended second edition of the IASPEI New Manual of Seismological Observatory Practice, NMSOP-2, is freely accessible on the Internet, scheduled for completion in the course of 2012. With some 2000 pages of texts and figures, plus linked sources of information, NMSOP-2 will then become the largest seismology E-book available to date.

The printed first edition of the IASPEI New Manual of Seismological Observatory Practice (NMSOP), elaborated by an international WG of the IASPEI Commission of Seismological Observation and Interpretation (CoSOI) and other contributors under the conceptual guidance and editorship of Prof. Dr. Peter Bormann, was published in 2002 by the GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences (Helmholtz Association). NMSOP-1 is used already in more than 100 countries in seismological practice, national and international training courses, teaching and research. Meanwhile, it is also available as a print publication in Chinese and in partial translations into Russian, Indonesian and Turkish language.

Again under the umbrella of CoSOI and with P. Bormann (GFZ) as editor, 73 authors from Australia, Japan, Taiwan, USA and 15 European countries have since 2006 contributed to NMSOP-2 and more than 70 experts from 20 countries provided peer reviews of manuscripts. Most of the original 13 NMSOP-1 chapters have been revised significantly and five new topical areas were added. They cover marine seismic observations, investigation of site response in urban areas, seismological contributions to seismic risk mitigation, automated event and phase identification as well as issues and procedures related to nuclear test-ban treaty monitoring in the framework of the CTBTO. Additionally, information sheets on many new topics have been added, e.g. on the recently agreed IASPEI standards for determining magnitudes from digital data, on stress conditions inferable from modern magnitudes, on seismic energy determination from local and regional seismic events, on the optimization of seismic network configurations and on self-organizing seismic early warning information networks. All this is (respectively will be) complemented by interactive exercises, tutorials and computer animations, e.g. on earthquake rupture and tsunami propagation, on seismic ray propagation through the Earth in relation to the formation of travel-time curves and seismic records, on the radiation patterns of P and S waves for different rupture mechanisms and slip orientations, on 3-D viewing and interpretation of earthquake clusters etc.

Before NSMOP, text books in seismology generally focussed either on a general, graduate-level introduction or on specialized theory and research.

Obituaries

Sergei Arefiev, 1952 - 2012



After the era of analog seismology and thus of the 1979 Willmore Manual had ended, virtually no material was available that provided both the scientific background and the competent unique guidance for carrying out modern seismological observation, data analysis and field operation practice. Yet, these activities increasingly depend on global communication, data exchange and standardisation of formats and procedures as well as interdisciplinary cooperation, which necessitates the understanding of related differences in technical terminology, approaches and procedures. The printed first edition of the NMSOP aimed at filling these gaps.

NMSOP-2 now allows the download of dozens of computer programs for data analysis, instrument calibration, event locations, network performance assessment and educational animations. Finally, besides a highly extended list of Acronyms, NMSOP-2 contains the largest ever published glossary of terms in earthquake, volcano and engineering seismology (200 pages). It will notably facilitate the mutual understanding between earth scientists, engineers, educators, disaster managers, decision makers and journalists.

All items can be viewed and downloaded via the NMSOP website maintained by the GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences in Potsdam, Germany. The NMSOP-1 and NMSOP-2 websites are also mirrored on the websites of the International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior and the International Seismological Centre.

GFZ website

<http://nmsop.gfz-potsdam.de>

doi: 10.2312/GFZ.NMSOP-2.

IASPEI website

<http://www.iaspei.org/projects/NMSOP.html>

ISC website

<http://www.isc.ac.uk/standards>

Contributed by Peter Bormann

Our friend and colleague, head of the Laboratory of Strong earthquakes and seismometry, Prof. Sergei S. Arefiev passed away on March 30, 2012.

Sergei Arefiev was born on February 27, 1952, in a family of seismologists in the seismic station Khorog, in the Pamirs. Since graduating the Dagestan University (Makhachkala) in 1974 up to his last days he worked at the Institute of Physics of the Earth, Russian Academy of Sciences. The focus of his scientific studies was seismicity and earthquake source physics. He put a lot of effort into organising field observations in strong earthquake epicentral zones. These expeditions covered large territories of the former Soviet Union and beyond, such as the 1988 Spitak (Armenia), the 1994 Shikotan Island (Kurile Islands), and the 1995 Neftegorsk (Sakhalin Island) ones. Prof. Arefiev led seismic hazards assessment works for many critical facilities.

Sergei Arefiev was a member of the editorial board of several scientific journals. For several years from 1988 till 1996 he was the Titular member of Russia in the European Seismological Commission, and actively carried out his duties there.

During hard times in 1990s Sergei Arefiev had cultivated in the Laboratory the spirit of scientific studies and scrupulous work with field data. He was a generous mentor to his younger colleagues and a good friend to all members of expeditions to the epicentral areas.

Strength of spirit and true feelings of fairness were inherent to all his actions and gave strength to many of us.

We will preserve in our memories the image of Sergei Arefiev.

Job Opportunities

SEISMOLOGIST / ANALYST

The International Seismological Centre (ISC) requires a full-time **Seismologist / Analyst** from June 1, 2012. Initially this post is for 2 years with a six-month probation period and a strong possibility of extension. The ISC values its experienced personnel and is always happy to retain qualified and dedicated staff.

The successful candidate will be expected to contribute on a daily basis to one of the most important ISC duties – analysing the ISC Bulletin. Fulfilling these duties will involve the review of automatic hypocentre solutions, reported source parameters and station picks for approximately 50,000 earthquakes and explosions per year recorded by a network of 5,000 seismic stations worldwide. Communication with seismologists from one of the 140 networks contributing data to the ISC is also part of the job. This is clearly **not a research position** although from time to time the ISC analysts are involved in investigating ways to improve the ISC operations and services to the global seismological community with occasional opportunities to participate in international conferences.

A suitable candidate should have

- a degree in Geophysics or related fields
- experience in regional and global observational seismology, including waveform analysis
- a dedicated meticulous attitude to data
- a working knowledge of English and
- the ability to work as part of a friendly international team

Familiarity with LINUX as well as an understanding of other languages would be an advantage. The successful candidate will be given appropriate training and guidance that may last in excess of 6 months.

The starting salary will be approximately £26K per annum, consistent with UK Academic scales, with 6 weeks paid holiday. Overseas employees will be provided with some assistance in initial travel, accommodation and obtaining a permit to work in UK if required.

To apply, please send your CV with an accent on the above requirements and the names and e-mail addresses of two referees to the ISC Administration Officer at admin@isc.ac.uk **before May 5, 2012**.

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.

2012

General Assembly of the European Geosciences Union (EGU)

April 22-27, Vienna, Austria

Website: <http://www.egu2012.eu/>

38th Workshop of the International School of Geophysics, 1st EPOS-ORFEUS Coordination Meeting

May 25 - 30, 2012, Erice, Sicily

Contact: Program alberto.michelini@ingv.it

Logistics silvia.nardi@ingv.it

Website: <http://erice2012may.rm.ingv.it/>

IUGG Conference on Mathematical Geophysics

June 18-22, 2012, National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Website: <http://www.cmgedinburgh2012.org.uk/>

34th International Geological Congress (IGC)

August 5-10, 2012, Brisbane, Australia

Contact: info@34igc.org

Website: <http://www.34igc.org/>

AOGS-AGU (WPGM) Joint Assembly

August 13-17, 2012, Sentosa Island, Singapore

Contact: info@asiaoceania.org

Website: <http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2012/>

33rd General Assembly of the European Seismological Commission

August 19-24, 2012, Moscow, Russia

Contact: Devochkina Anastasia -

esc2012@onlinereg.ru

Website: www.esc2012-moscow.org

4th International Disaster and Risk Conference

August 26-30, 2012, Davos, Switzerland

Contact: Walter J. Amman

grf-presidency@grforum.org

Website: http://idrc.info/pages_new.php/IDRC-Davos-2012/831/1/

9th General Assembly of Asian Seismological Commission 2012

September 17-20, 2012, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Contact: demberel@rcag.ac.mn Website:

www.asc2012.mn

**ECGS Workshop on:
Earthquake source physics on various scales**

October 3-5, 2012, Luxembourg

Contact: source2012@ecgs.lu

Website: <http://www.ecgs.lu/source2012>

**1st International Conference on Frontiers in
Computational Physics: Modeling the Earth
System**

December 16 – 20, 2012, Boulder, CO, USA

Website:

<http://www.frontiersincomputationalphysics.com/>

Fall Meeting of the American Geophysical Union

December 3-7, 2012, San Francisco, CA, USA

Website:

<http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2012/>

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.

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