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I would like to take the opportunity to wish the whole IASPEI community a relaxing holiday season.

Please don't forget to inform me about international conferences and workshops with IASPEI related topics. Then, I can add these events to the Meetings Calendar of future Newsletters.

Johannes Schweitzer
Secretary General

Report: 1st General Assembly of the African Seismological Commission (AfSC) Nile River, Egypt, 2 – 5 April 2016

The African Seismological Commission (AfSC) was established on January 22, 2014 at the University of Witwatersrand, in South Africa. This year, AfSC held its 1st General Assembly (GA) from 2 – 5 April 2016 on a chartered Nile cruise ship that sailed from Luxor (the ancient capital Thebes of Egypt) to Aswan and the Aswan Dam. The GA was hosted and organized by the National Research Institute of Astronomy and Geophysics (NRIAG), Helwan, Egypt. Financial support for the conference came from IASPEI, IUGG and CTBTO.



Foreword

Dear Readers,

In this second issue of the IASPEI Newsletter in 2016 you can find reports from two Assemblies of Regional IASPEI Commissions. The first Assembly was held on the Nile River in Egypt at the beginning of April and the second one in San José, Costa Rica at the end of June.

In addition, I enclose two announcements from the International Seismological Centre (ISC).

The event was attended by 92 scientists, most of them coming from 18 African countries and some from Europe (France, Italy, Turkey, Russia and Norway). Over 96 technical papers with a wide range in seismology and related fields were presented as oral talks or poster contributions.

Owing to the unique arrangement of this event on a cruising ship, where the conference hall (Fig. 1), accommodations and restaurants are hosted closely together, all oral and poster presentations, the business meetings and all other activities were well attended in a relaxing atmosphere. At some stops along the cruise, a considerable number of historical sites and temples were visited, which resulted in a good balance between science and tourism (Fig. 2).



Figure 1



Figure 2

The poster session allowed hot discussions on the sun deck of the ship in mild weather every afternoon (Fig. 3). At the end of the conference a best poster prize was awarded to Mr. Hazem Bader Eldin from NRIAG.



Figure 3

During the GA several gatherings, discussions and workgroup meetings were held aiming to explore opportunities to share seismological research and strengthen joint seismological activities in Africa under the umbrella of the newborn AfSC. Also chair persons were chosen for newly formed working groups of the AfSC. These working groups are open for members interested in strengthening several ongoing seismological activities and thereby to build capacity in the African continent.

	Title	Chair	Country
WG1	Observational Seismology	Dr. V. Midzi	South Africa
WG2	Earth structure	Prof. R. Durrheim	South Africa
WG3	Active fault studies	Prof. M. Meghraoui	Algeria
WG4	Seismic Hazard and risk assessment	Dr. G. T. Mavonga	DR Congo
WG5	Earthquake Scientific Response Team	Dr. M. Elgabry	Egypt

The GA was a good occasion to foster bilateral cooperation between African seismologists. During this GA an agreement of collaboration between NRIAG, Egypt and GRAS, Sudan in the field of Geophysics and especially in seismology has been signed by both institutions (Fig. 4).



Figure 4

At the end of the conference, it was announced that all African countries can bid for hosting the next (2nd) General Assembly of the African Seismological Commission in 2018. Potential candidates have to submit their bids until April 2017.

The 1st General Assembly of the African Seismological Commission was an experience, which will not be forgotten, thanks are due to the LOC and NRIAG.

J. Schweitzer based on contributions from Dr. M. Elgabry, NIAG and Dr. A. Ayele, AfSC President

Report: 2nd General Assembly of the Latin America and Caribbean Seismological Commission (LACSC) San José, Costa Rica, 20 – 22 June 2016

The 2nd General Assembly of the Latin America and Caribbean Seismological Commission (LACSC), one of the 4 regional commissions of IASPEI, was held in San José, Costa Rica, from June 20 to 22, 2016, at the Wyndam-Herradura Convention Center. This Assembly was organized by the Costa Rica Volcanological and Seismological Observatory, a research institute at the National University in Heredia, and by the

Costa Rica National Academy of Science, the IUGG adhering institution in Costa Rica.

Given the prestige that seismological institutions have in Costa Rica, this event was declared of Public Interest in an official decree by the President of Costa Rica and the Minister of Science, Technology and Telecommunications. The Vice-President of Costa Rica, Ms. Ana Helena Chacón Echeverría, attended and officially opened the Assembly. Also present at the stage during the inauguration were the Minister a.i. of Science and Technology, the Chancellor of the National University, the President of the Costa Rica Academy of Sciences and the President of the National Emergency Commission.

Participants from 37 countries submitted 283 abstracts to this assembly, 202 for oral presentations and 81 as posters. Only 4 % of the oral presentations and 7 % of posters were canceled before the meeting. Most cancelled oral presentations could be replaced before the final program so that the sessions had no interruptions. The scientific program encompassed 16 sessions including a Forum on the Costa Rica Building Code and a special session on the Pedernales, Ecuador Earthquake, where for the first time data and results from this event were shared in an international meeting. A total of 207 participants attended this assembly.

A one-week course on Seismic Moment Inversion was taught before the assembly. Taking advantage of the large and broad participation at the LACSC2016, two workshops were also held in Costa Rica right after the assembly: one on Seismic Hazard in South America, Central America and the Caribbean, organized by the USGS and the University of Chile with support from USAID/OFDA; the other was an Expert workshop on Tsunami sources for Central America, funded by UNESCO.

As a goal for the LACSC2016 Assembly, the local organizing committee decided to support, with lodging and/or registration fee, all students and early career scientists who

requested funding. Thanks to the support from USAID/OFDA/LAC, IASPEI, IUGG, SSA and IRIS, 53 students and 31 early career scientists could be funded.

Two business meetings of LACSC were held during this assembly, one of the Officers of the Executive Committee and Council, and a Plenary Session. An amendment to LACSC statutes was introduced to make them compatible with the new IASPEI statutes in terms of membership. A new Executive Committee was elected integrated by Victor Huérfano from Puerto Rico as President, Marino Protti (Costa Rica - IASPEI) as Past-President, Mario Ruiz (Ecuador) as Vice-President, Marcelo Assumpção (Brazil - IASPEI) as Executive Secretary, Patricia Alvarado (Argentina - IASPEI), Leandro Rodríguez (Peru - IASPEI), Sergio Barrientos (Chile - IASPEI) Franck Audemard (Venezuela - CERESIS), Eduardo Camacho (Panama), Xyoli Pérez-Campos (Mexico-IASPEI) and Lloyd Lynch (Trinidad and Tobago - CERESIS).

Puerto Rico was chosen as the venue for the next LACSC2018 Assembly. That assembly will be jointly held with the Annual Meeting of the Seismological Society of America 24 – 26 April 2018.

Marino Protti, LACSC President 2014-2016

The ISC Event Bibliography: 100+ years of references for seismic events that occurred since 1904

Notable seismic events (mostly earthquakes but also man-made ones such as nuclear explosions) are subject of scientific studies in various fields of geoscience and earthquake engineering. Many advancements in our understanding of complexities of the earthquake process and related phenomena (e.g., tsunamis, landslides, ionospheric

anomalies, etc.) have been achieved thanks to in-depth studies of notable seismic events, and researchers in various geoscience fields often need to obtain the relevant literature for their studies (as well as editors and reviewers during the publication process). To facilitate such tasks, the ISC Event Bibliography (www.isc.ac.uk/event_bibliography/index.php) offers a search for publications considering specific seismic events by targeting both event parameters (location and time) and publication parameters (journal, year of publication, authors). Such search is possible thanks to the association between seismic events in the ISC Bulletin and relevant publications (see [Di Giacomo et al., 2014](#) for more details). The associations are established by ISC staff on a monthly basis when scanning new publications in 280 journals in various geoscience fields.

Many events with a large number of associated publications are located in the Euro-Mediterranean region, California, Japan and parts of continental Asia. The 2011 Tohoku and the 2008 Wenchuan earthquakes are the only events with more than 1000 associated references; a few others have several hundreds of references yet most have less than five

(www.isc.ac.uk/event_bibliography/overview.php).

We also work on including past publications in order to improve the completeness and time coverage of the ISC Event Bibliography, and users can help us by submitting missing references/event associations

(www.isc.ac.uk/event_bibliography/submit.php) or by contacting us by email (www.isc.ac.uk/event_bibliography/contact.php).

The ISC Uses Data of the Past Temporary Seismic Deployments

The ISC Bulletin contains parameters of earthquakes and recorded seismic waves covering the last ~110 years. To facilitate this work, a large number of agencies regularly submit reviewed bulletin data from permanent seismic networks. However, due to the distribution of permanent stations and earthquakes large enough to be sampled at teleseismic distances, large areas have not yet been sampled by many ray-paths.

Temporary stations are routinely deployed around the globe either to record aftershock sequences or to conduct various scientific projects and experiments. These projects often resulted in determination of seismic arrival times, hypocentres and moment tensors later published in scientific journals.

As part of the ISC Bulletin Rebuild project, we have already received and integrated a substantial number of hypocentres, moment tensors and arrival times from many continents and world's oceans. All data were referenced to give appropriate credit to the authors.

The ISC invites all scientists to help making the best possible use of data from past temporary deployments. We would like to spread the word that, if given to the ISC, parametric data from old deployments may still contribute significantly to new research.

News from the IUGG

The IUGG Annual Report provides a summary of the activities of the Union and its Associations as well as of the Union and Inter-Unions Commissions. The Annual Report 2015 is posted on the website: <http://www.iugg.org/publications/reports/report2015.pdf>. We invite you to download this

impressive summary of last year's activities. The report will be printed together with the IUGG Yearbook 2016 and will be mailed to the Adhering Organizations, National Committees, International partners, and major libraries in June 2016. 2016 Yearbook:

<http://www.iugg.org/publications/yearbooks/>

From: IUGG Electronic Journal, **16**, 6 (1 June 2016)

Meetings Calendar

We report below titles, dates, places and websites of the forthcoming meetings relevant to the interests of IASPEI scientists. If you are aware of events not listed below, please inform the Secretary General.

2016

5th IASPEI/IAEE International Symposium: Effects of Surface Geology on Seismic Motion (ESG5)

August 15 – 17, 2016, Taipei, Taiwan

URL: <http://esg5.nctee.org.tw>

2016 EMSEV International Workshop “Understanding Earthquakes and Volcanoes from Lithosphere to Space”

August 25 – 29, 2016, Beijing, China

URL: <http://www.emsev2016.com/>

35th International Geological Congress (IGC)

August 27 – September 4, 2016, Cape Town, South Africa

URL: <http://www.35igc.org>

35th European Seismological Commission (ESC), General Assembly 2016

September 4 – 10, 2016, Trieste, Italy

URL: <http://www.35esc2016.eu>

IAG Workshop “Understanding the Earth core and nutation”

September 19 – 20, 2016, Brussels, Belgium

URL: <https://register-as.oma.be/rotanutWS/>

11th ASC General Assembly

November, 25 – 27, 2016, Melbourne,
Australia

URL: asc2016.asia

AGU Fall Meeting

December 12 – 16, 2016, San Francisco,
USA

URL: <http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2016/>

2017

16th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering (WCEE)

January 9 – 13, 2017, Santiago, Chile

URL: <http://www.16wcee.com/>

10th International Workshop on Statistical Seismology (StatSei10)

February 20 – 24, 2017, Wellington, New Zealand

URL: <http://www.gns.cri.nz/statsei10>

Annual Meeting of the Seismological Society of America

April 18 – 20, 2017, Denver, Colorado, USA

URL: <http://www.seismosoc.org/meetings/>

IAG – IASPEI: Joint Scientific Assembly

July 30 – August 4, 2017, Kobe, Japan

URL: <http://www.iag-iaspei-2017.jp/>

AGU Fall Meeting

December 11 – 15, 2017, New Orleans, USA

2018

Latin American and Caribbean Seismological Commission (LACSC) and Seismological Society of America (SSA) joint meeting

April 24 – 26, 2018, San Juan, Puerto Rico

AGU Fall Meeting

December 10 – 14, 2018, Washington D.C., USA

2019

27th IUGG General Assembly

July 8 – 17, 2019, Montreal, Canada

AGU Fall Meeting

December 9 – 13, 2019, San Francisco, USA

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

Since July 2015, all scientists participating in IASPEI activities are counted as **members** of IASPEI (see <http://www.iaspei.org/statutes.html>). IASPEI welcomes all scientists throughout the world to join in seismological research.

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

IASPEI can be found on the web 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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