

Workshop on Seismological Contributions to Earthquake Risk Reduction

The workshop will encourage seismologists from South-West Pacific and other countries to consider earthquakes and earthquake effects from different perspectives, and particularly to understand how engineers and planners can use seismological knowledge to reduce earthquake risk. They will be advised to pro-actively gather and analyse such information, and to take part with the process of reducing earthquake risk and increasing earthquake resilience, both within and beyond their country.

This project specifically targets young and early-career scientists from developing countries. A notable feature of recent positive developments in Vanuatu and Fiji has been the leading role played by women.

We propose holding a workshop for seismology delegates particularly from SW Pacific countries, Australia and New Zealand, in conjunction with the joint Asian Seismological Commission/Australian Earthquake Engineering Society conference in Melbourne in November 2016. Seismologists from other regions with related interests and with questions, answers, or both, are welcome to attend.

The workshop will produce a Standards Australia Handbook outlining the issues associated with earthquake hazard and risk, the problems associated with using a code developed for another region, and the steps required to enable the adoption of a code that considers the varying hazard and conditions in each country. This is likely to recommend adoption of a recently published international loading code, such as the latest New Zealand Earthquake Loading Standard, and local hazard values for the countries of the South-west Pacific. A more detailed earthquake hazard map would be necessary for Papua New Guinea but considerable work has been done on earthquake hazard assessment there.