

ISCNEWS

January to March 2008 www.isc.ac.uk

New year and new Director



The latest updates, news and activities from the ISC

DMITRY STORCHAK STARTS AS DIRECTOR

Dmitry Storchak assumed the ISC Director's responsibilities on January 1st 2008. He has a substantial programme for the development of the ISC that would ensure that the ISC data will remain an important requirement for all our users.

This programme includes bringing the ISC edited Bulletin schedule to approximately 15-18 months behind real-time as well as the introduction of a new International Seismic Network and Station Registry, and starting a collection of provisional bulletins to make the ISC automatic Bulletin as comprehensive as possible before the manual review takes place. There are also plans to modernise the way the ISC computes its hypocentres and magnitudes and also to attempt to take some useful measurements from waveforms widely available on-line in order to improve the accuracy of the ISC Bulletin. The ISC Executive Committee will discuss this programme at its next meeting in June 2008.



AK135 REPLACES JEFFREYS-BULLEN IN OPERATIONS

Since 2005 the ISC has been engaged in preparing and running location workshops at IASPEI meetings. Following the IASPEI recommendation to introduce AK135 global velocity model into the ISC operations, the ISC Governing Council recently held an electronic vote on this issue and 37, out of 55 members of the Council, took part with all votes being affirmative.

Following the outcome of the vote, the ISC has introduced the AK135 velocity model into operations from the data month of Jan 2006. The AK135 based ISC hypocenter locations are now reviewed by the ISC seismologists. We still produce Jeffreys-Bullen (JB) based ISC hypocents (coded ISCJB) but they are no longer reviewed.

Introduction of AK135 is just the first step in the programme of modernizing the ISC location procedures. We are planning to re-compute the entire ISC dataset using AK135 once new location procedures are designed, tested, discussed and approved. Until that time the automatic JB locations will continue to be produced to observe the long-time continuity of the ISC Bulletin.

JB tables have been used in ISC operations for 42 data years. They were also used for several decades in the production of the International Seismological Summary, which preceded the ISC Bulletin. The fact that these tables have been so widely used for such a long time remains a tribute to the painstaking work of Sir Harold Jeffreys and Keith Bullen, who produced this magnificent set of tables using hand-cranked calculators.

BEATRIZ VERA PROMOTED TO LEAD ANALYST

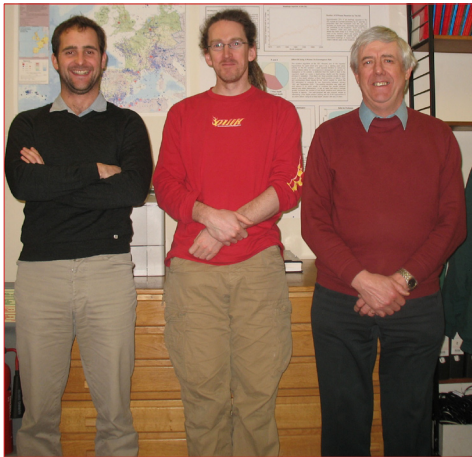
Beatriz Vera has been promoted to Lead Analyst. Beatriz is now leading the team of ISC seismologists that includes Baokun Li and Przemias Kowalski. They are charged with the manual review of the ISC Bulletin. Dmitry Storchak is still helping with the final semi-automatic checking of the already reviewed bulletin.

Beatriz, originally from Universidad del Valle in Cali, Colombia, has been successfully working at the ISC since February 2006. She mastered the skills of the ISC analyst and now oversees the production of the ISC Published Bulletin with great success. At present the ISC Published Bulletin is available from the ISC website approximately 24.5 months behind real time. With three seismologist/analysts on the staff the ISC is planning to produce the Bulletin progressively closer to real time.



ISC OPERATIONS ARE ON LINUX

In mid January the ISC finally began operations based on Linux and PostgreSQL, an opensource database, with the editing of January 2006 data. This is the culmination of over one years work by the ISC IT team, Oriol Gaspà Rebull, James Harris and Peter Dawson (pictured below). This has almost seamlessly provided both new tools and faster operation of previous tools to the seismologists and allowed replacement of the existing workstations and servers with considerably faster models at reasonable cost. The web site has now also been switched to the new server so users should also begin to see the advantages.



NEW DATA FROM ETHIOPIA

Thanks to the efforts of Dr Atalay Ayele (pictured below) from Geophysical Observatory of Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia (ISC agency code AAE), we have received the AAE network bulletin for year 2006 in SEISAN format. This is an important breakthrough in the data collection as the ISC has not received any data from East Africa for approximately 10 years. We are hoping to receive further contributions from AAE in due course.



★ NEW ISC INFORMATION BROCHURE ★

The most recent ISC brochure was published in **1998** and over the years has been taken by members of the ISC staff to professional conferences to describe our services and also been given to numerous visitors to the ISC. It is widely used to provide information about the ISC when seeking new data and new member organizations.

Preparations for publishing a **brand new brochure** are being coordinated by the ISC Administration Officer, Mrs. Maureen Aspinwall. At this point we would be interested to receive a short paragraph or two, possibly accompanied with a small graph in colour, telling us about an example of successful use of the ISC data in research. A picture of the author would also be appreciated.

MEMBER OF UK PARLIAMENT VISITS ISC

On March 7th Mr Richard Benyon, the Member of UK Parliament for West Berkshire visited the ISC. Dmitry Storchak gave him an overview of the Centre's history and mission. Professor John Woodhouse from Oxford University, Dr Peter Marshall from AWE Blacknest and ISC's Honorary Seismologist Dr Robin Adams kindly participated on this occasion helping to explain the true value of the ISC data.



This newsletter can be viewed online at:

www.isc.ac.uk/doc/newsletter/2008q1/2008q1.pdf



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