

Up and running, despite the worldwide calamity

ISC is now a CIO

From Jan 1, 2021, the ISC operates as a charitable incorporated organization (CIO), registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. This brings a number of important benefits, including running the ISC in the most tax-efficient manner.

New Members and Supporters



From 2020, the Geological Survey of Israel (GSI) took over the ISC membership from the Geophysical Institute of Israel (GII). This follows the

transfer of the responsibility to manage the national seismic network from GII to GSI.



Schweizerischer Erdbebendienst
Service Sismologique Suisse
Servizio Sismico Svizzero
Swiss Seismological Service

We are also happy to acknowledge a one-off contribution from SED/ETH to the Advancement of the ISC-GEM catalogue project, which came on top of the regular Swiss membership contribution from the Academy of Sciences.

New Data Reporters



With help from Wilfried Strauch, we are now receiving QuakeML formatted earthquake bulletins from the Central American Tsunami Advisory

Center (CATAAC) based at the Nicaraguan Institute for Territorial Studies (INETER) and assisted by JICA (Japan) and IOC (UNESCO).

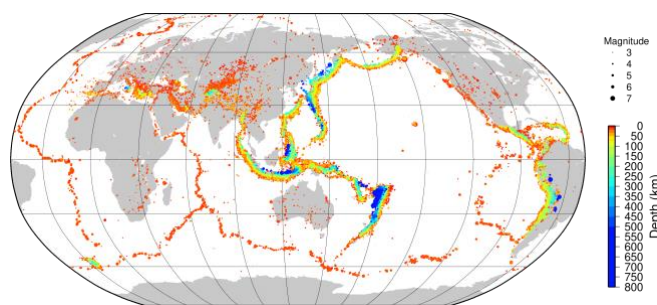
With help from Alexandros Savvaidis and Vincent O'Sullivan, the ISC is now receiving



QuakeML formatted earthquake bulletins from Texas

Seismological Network (TexNet) at the University of Texas at Austin in United States.

2018 Reviewed Bulletin is out



The ISC Analysts finished the review of ~60,000 events in the 2018 ISC Bulletin. The entire 2018 Bulletin (together with small events) includes ~600,000 seismic events with ~18 million associated phases from ~10,000 stations worldwide, available via a variety of searches on the ISC website.

In the meantime, an uphill struggle continues as the ISC accelerates production of its Bulletin and the ISC Analysts muscle through the beginning of data year 2019. A large number of reporting agencies are struggling to keep up with the ISC data requests due to serious constraints that the Covid-19 pandemic has placed on running networks and processing seismic data. An inability to work in the offices is among the most common problems faced by many agencies worldwide. In line with its mission, the ISC aims not to leave behind any, even small, reporter in order to maintain the most complete and comprehensive ISC Bulletin. This has proved difficult as the Director and several members of staff are still chasing the delayed 2019 data on a daily basis.

Ryan Gallacher is hired

In January, the ISC staff was strengthened by the “virtual arrival” of Dr. Ryan Gallacher whose primary role at the ISC is the maintenance and further development of the CTBTO Link to the ISC database and the IASPEI Reference Event List (GT).



Ryan completed a B.Sc (Hons) in Geophysics and Meteorology at the University of Edinburgh from 2006-2010. He then completed a MRes in Science of Natural Hazards at the University of Bristol from 2010-2011. He received a PhD from the University of Southampton in 2017, under the supervision of Dr. Derek Keir & Dr. Nicholas Harmon, which focused on understanding the mantle structure beneath Ethiopia and Yemen using teleseismic methods. He has additionally completed studies using P-s receiver functions in Cameroon and Tanzania.

Ryan’s typical Glasgow accent was very welcome to further enrich the variety of speech heard at the ISC on-line development meetings. Ryan is planning to move from Scotland to southern England at the end of June, when the ISC staff is expected to return to working in the office.

Network articles in the Summary of the ISC Bulletin

The Summary of the Bulletin of the ISC (in print and on-line) continues publication of invited articles that describe the history, current status and earthquake data procedures used by the agencies reporting bulletin data to the ISC. The most recent articles included those from:



China Earthquake Networks Center (CENC) in Beijing, by Guanghui Dai and Yanru An



National Institute for Earth Physics (NIEP) in Măgurele, Romania, by Constantin Ionescu, Mihaela Popa, Cristian Neagoe, Daniela Veronica Ghica.

These articles receive a thorough review by the Summary’s Editor, Dr. Kathrin Lieser, an individual DOI obtained by the ISC via CrossRef and good visibility in the community. These articles are linked to the agency webpage on the ISC website and visible to all ISC data users interested to obtain additional information with regard to an agency’s data included in the ISC Bulletin.

Boost to ISC-EHB

We are now preparing to extend the ISC-EHB dataset to include the data year 2018.

E.R. (Bob) Engdahl continues helping the ISC with the quality control of this popular dataset. It was a relief to learn that, as part of his age group, Bob was among the first to be vaccinated against Covid-19. Bob’s comment was that “being old as dirt has its benefits!”



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