

Gradual return to the office

The UK Government's guidance to work at home issued in December 2021 was withdrawn in the second part of January. As a result, the ISC staff made a gradual phased return with 25% at first and then 50% of staff working at our office in Thatcham during February and March. On April 28, we were delighted to see all staff in the office.



Prior to that, international visitors arrived after a very long period of absence. *Chia-Hsin Tsai* – a PhD student at University of Oxford (*left*) and *Aidyn Mukambayev* – a PhD student at **Satbayev University**, key staff member at the **Kazakhstan National Data Centre** for CTBTO in Almaty



(*right*). In the photo they are discussing the ISC-EHB developments with Burak Sakarya of the ISC (*middle*).

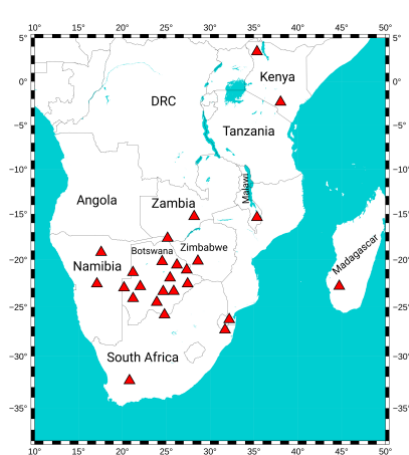
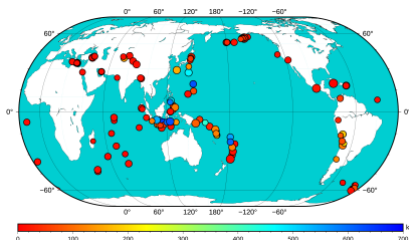
ISC ExecCom met

Sadly, due to a combination of difficult travel conditions and remaining Covid restrictions, the ISC ExecCom could not meet at the ISC in Thatcham. Instead, they had another on-line meeting on June 24-25. As always, on the first day the ISC staff made several presentations on the recent ISC data release, status of operations and development projects. Many of these projects take advantage of freely available waveforms that

allow ISC to fill in the gaps in agency reports and obtain earthquake parameters not ordinarily supplied by networks. The members of ExecCom shared their wisdom and gave advice on specific technical and policy matters. Data backup, preservation, and versioning as well as general ISC data collection policy have been given some thought by the ExecCom. The second day was devoted a review of staffing, memberships, grants, sponsorships, 2021 Accounts, and the budget for the next three years. The Governing Council Chair urged the ISC to assist current international effort in analogue seismogram scanning, by offering to hold information on seismogram availability for certain periods of time at various observatories around the world.

Teleseismic picks “from Africa”

Several African networks report seismic arrivals



from local and regional earthquakes to the ISC, yet none of them routinely report teleseismic earthquake picks. The ISC's African-born Seismologist, Blessing Shumba, has been trying to fill in the gap to improve the ISC Bulletin.

So far, working for just half-a-day each week he has picked teleseismic first and clear secondary arrivals of 132 earthquakes worldwide during the period from January to August 2020 with a magnitude range of 4.5 to 7.7, using waveforms of stations on the above map. Some of them are available as a result of the Africa Array project.

New ISC Staff

Originally from Portugal, Susana Carvalho joined the ISC in the capacity of a Historical Data Entry



Officer, for a start helping to select and enter parametric data from the early 1960s from BCIS books to improve earthquake parameters in the ISC-GEM catalogue. Susana is in fact a medical doctor with a degree, but due to

various life circumstances found it suitable to work in our cheerful international office. Not willing to be blindfolded by the historical technical work, she has voluntarily followed all technical presentations at the ISC ExecCom and is planning to learn further by reading the famous paperbacks of Bruce Bolt.

Internships at ISC



We recently hosted Chloe Fairhurst, a 3rd year Earth Sciences student from the University of Oxford, for a month-long micro-internship. She was working on the identification of earthquakes which occurred between 1908 and 1912 and not included in the

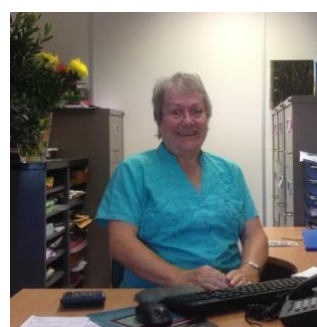
ISC Bulletin from two data sources: the Utsu catalogue of damaging earthquakes and the NEIC/WDS Global Significant Earthquake Database. Having identified a few missing events, Chloe validated them by searching for station readings of those events in printed bulletins. Chloe then moved to phase picking of waveforms downloaded from IRIS for large earthquakes which occurred recently.

Tartan Day at ISC



We patiently waited for the next Tartan Day (6th of April) to see our new employee, Ryan Gallacher in full glory. His Scottish outfit on the day has dramatically improved the international diversity of the ISC staff webpages.

Another ISC history article



We continue filling the gaps in the ISC history with personal memory accounts of former members of staff and governing bodies. This time we added to the *About ISC/Early history*

webpage [a note from the former Administration Officer, Mrs Maureen Aspinwall](#) who worked at the ISC for 30 years and retired in 2016.

ISC Prize for Oxford student



The ISC annual Prize for the best results in Geophysics and Mathematics was awarded to Julia Johnson – a student at the Earth Science Department of the ISC's Host Institution - the University of Oxford. Julia is

planning to spend some of the ISC prize towards her trip to Iceland this summer, where she is particularly interested in how seismology is used to monitor the ongoing eruption of Fagradalsfjall.



International
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Centre

All in the office again from April



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