

## 2025 World Stress Map

The 2025 edition of the [World Stress Map](#) has been released by GFZ Helmholtz Centre for Geosciences. This project compiles information



on the crustal present-day stress field on a global scale, which is an important asset for applications in several disciplines. The ISC

became a contributor to the project at the invitation of its leaders *Oliver Heidbach* (GFZ) and *Mojtaba Rajabi* (University of Queensland, Australia). The ISC provides representative earthquake source mechanisms which are used, along with a multitude of other datasets, to infer the stress regime. The ISC contribution is possible thanks to earthquake source mechanisms routinely reported to the ISC by quite a few agencies ([Lentas et al., 2019](#)).

## Robin Adams is 95



Not everyone reaches the grand age of 95. Not many of those who do, can still drive safely on a busy primary road. An honorary ISC Senior Seismologist and a former IASPEI

Secretary-General, *Robin Adams*, still does.

Soon after his anniversary, Robin gave a 45-minute talk with reminiscences from his working life as a New Zealand naval officer-seismologist, Cambridge PhD graduate, a true scientist, an international science organiser, and a person who knew how to read seismograms in the data centre that at the time did not process any seismograms.

Robin was presented with a magnificent cake by the entire ISC staff as well as former colleagues and guests: *David and Pat McGregor*, *Maureen and John Aspinwall*, *Lucy Hughes*, *David Bowers* and *Sheila Peacock*. *Bob Engdahl*, *Roger Musson*,

*Wayne Richardson* and *Reinhard Mittag* were following on-line. Recorded video-congratulations were delivered by *Harsh Gupta*, *Alice Walker* and *Chris Browitt*. *Roger Musson* proposed an on-line toast with a traditional Scottish drinking vessel, the quaich, which, in his view, was appropriate for every seismologist. Finally, the current IASPEI SG, *Johannes Schweitzer*, invited everyone to Robin's forthcoming 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary party.

## RAS Service Award



The Director of the ISC received the 2025 Service Award from the Royal Astronomical Society for his longstanding dedication and support of the seismological community. Dmitry has donated the monetary part of the award to help the ISC budget.

## Saudi Arabia's SGS joins



The Saudi Geological Survey (SGS) has joined the ISC as a Member-Institution willing to cooperate, train its staff, and contribute event data to the ISC. We thank *Dr. Turki A. Sehly*, the Senior Director of the Geohazard Center and *Dr. Khalid H. Yousef*, the Director of the National Earthquake and Volcano



Left-to-right: *Dr. Turki Sehly* and *Dr. Khalid Yousef*, SGS



Program for their persistent efforts in this direction. *Dr. Khalid Yousef* will serve as the Formal Representative of SGS. With this membership, the SGS contribution of earthquake

reports to the ISC obtains a secure footing.

## Morocco's CNRST joins



In February, *Dmitry Storchak* travelled to Rabat to meet with the Directrice of the National Centre of Scientific and Technical Research (CNRST), *Prof. Jamila El Alami*.



Left-to-right: *Lahcen Hni*, *Youssef Timoulali*, *Prof. Jamila El Alami*, *Dmitry Storchak*, *Nacer Jabour*, and *Mohamed Kasmi* at CNRST.

Following this visit *Prof. Jamila El Alami* has decided that CNRST will take up an ISC Membership and appointed *Dr. Youssef Timoulali* to serve as a Formal Representative to the ISC Governing Council.

## France's GeoAzur joins



The cooperation with *Karin Sigloch* began when she was working at the University of Oxford. We had a successful joint project implementing

the probabilistic point source model (PPSM). Since her move to the GeoAzur Laboratory in the South of France, we have worked together on improving earthquake locations in remote oceanic areas by using seismic arrivals recorded by floating seismometers (MERMAIDs). GeoAzur has now joined ISC as a Member-Institution to support the ISC operations.

## NSF award via Oxford

Following a calamity with the US NSF funding in 2022, a new proposal was submitted to NSF via the University of Oxford with the award issued in 2024. In early 2025, despite all recent uncertainties, we received ~50% of the entire award which has considerably strengthened the financial standing of the ISC.

## Visit from Blacknest

In January, we received a visit from seismologists working at the UK National Data Centre for CTBTO, Blacknest. The ISC staff reciprocated by visiting Blacknest in May. An exchange of project presentations and ideas was exceptionally useful to both organizations.

## New data from Iraq

For many years, the main contributor of event data from Iraq has been the *Iraqi Meteorological Organization and Seismology*.



In addition, since 2018, station arrival times were supplied by some individual university networks that in 2025 have been united as *Mesopotamian Seismic Network (MPSN)*.

MPSN has promptly reported relevant station phase picks for data year 2025. We are grateful to *Wathiq Abdulnaby* and several of his colleagues in Iraqi universities for this useful contribution.

## ISC Prize for Oxford student



The ISC annual Prize for the best Year 1 results in Geophysics and Mathematics was awarded to *William Raichura* – a student at the Earth Science Department of the ISC's Host Institution - *the University of Oxford*.



Going through turbulent waters

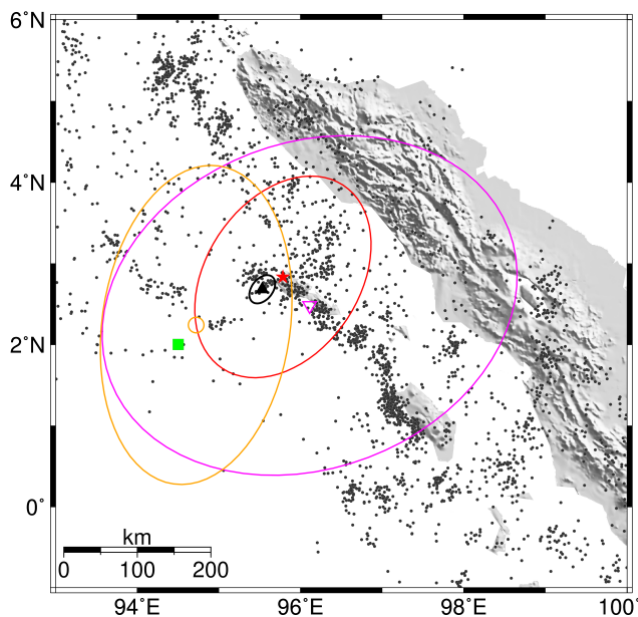


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## Paper in Seismica on early instrumental errors

Thanks to the large effort of ISC staff and a former ISC Senior Seismologist *István Bondár*, we have published our first paper in *Seismica* ([Di Giacomo et al., 2025](#)). This work gives a fresh look at the time-dependent uncertainty related to early analogue instrument picks (1904-1963) aiming to provide more reliable location uncertainty estimates for the early-instrumental earthquakes by the ISC location algorithm (ISCloc, [Bondár and Storchak, 2011](#)). Here we partially reproduce Fig. 11 from the paper to show how we obtained a more reliable location uncertainty for the 1907 Sumatra earthquake.



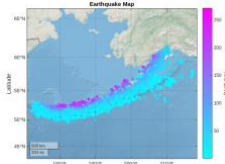
Modified Fig. 11 from [Di Giacomo et al. \(2025\)](#): the updated ISCloc solution (red star and error ellipse), current [ISC-GEM Catalogue](#) solution (black triangle), the locations by [Kanamori et al. \(2010\)](#) (inverted magenta triangle), and by [Martin et al. \(2019\)](#) (orange circle); the background seismicity is from the [ISC-EHB](#).

With the updated ISCloc, we are now preparing to extend the Reviewed ISC Bulletin into the 1904-1963 period, which will effectively double its time span.

## Another paper (GT) in Seismica

The criteria used to identify events in the IASPEI Reference List (Ground Truth - GT List) has been updated to account for modern location techniques. [Gallacher et al., 2025](#) demonstrated that the parameter measuring unbalanced station distributions,  $\Delta U$ , can be replaced by a more general measure of azimuthal station coverage defined as the Cyclic Polygon Quotient (CPQ). CPQ is the ratio of the area of a cyclic polygon formed by connecting event to station azimuths on a unitary circle, and the area of the unitary circle. Additionally, it was shown that hypocentre depths can be resolved where multiple seismic stations report both P & S phase arrivals, providing an alternative to the previous GT criteria, which required a station within 10 km of the event.

## ISC toolbox for MATLAB



A second version of the [ISC toolbox for MATLAB](#) was released in June. It includes the ability to parse and plot moment tensor data, and plot

seismic transects. It builds on the core functionality of the toolbox released in 2024.

## Event Type Nomenclature

The IASPEI's joint CoSOI-FDSN working group has restarted its activities in an attempt to construct a more up-to-date nomenclature of seismic events recorded in operational event catalogues. Interested colleagues should write to [Dmitry Storchak](#) to be included in the group.

## Updating infrasound events

At the request of *Laslo Evers* from KNMI in the Netherlands, we checked the correctness of association of infra-sound arrivals to events in the ISC Bulletin. Thousands of bulletin events during the 2001-2025 period received previously missed infrasound arrivals at ~150 stations.



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## Interns helping GT project

A student from *Imperial College, Bryony Renwick*, continued helping us in her spare time by picking waveforms of Ground Truth (GT) events. Bryony and another student from *Bristol* are expected to join us again later this summer.

## Staff changes

*Rose Wylie* left the ISC in March to pursue her own career after almost 15 years of service. At first, she was employed as a Historical Data Entry Officer to help digitise information from printed station bulletins as part of the ISC-GEM project. After a few years, she was selected for training as a Bulletin Analyst which included a work trip to PGC in British Columbia, Canada, and NEIC in Colorado, USA. At some point in her ISC career she was working as the Administrator of the Analyst Team.

One of our current data entry staff, *Chi Wing Chung*, an architect by education, is currently being trained to become an Analyst.

## Anthony Hughes passed away

One of the former ISC directors, *Anthony A. Hughes* passed away on March 24, 2025.

Anthony was familiar with the International Seismological Summary (ISS) – the predecessor of the ISC - from an early age, as his father, *J.S. Hughes*, was practically running the ISS in Kew. Following his graduation from Oxford, Anthony worked for the ISS and managed its closure in Kew. He then moved to Edinburgh to join the ISC which was at the time managed by *Pat Willmore*.

When *Edouard Arnold* became the ISC Director, Anthony was appointed a Deputy Director and took responsibility for the content of the monthly ISC Bulletin. After Arnold was called back to the US in 1977, the ISC Governing Council appointed Anthony as the Director of the ISC.



In the early 1980s, the ISC obtained its first computer. In 1986, the ISC invested in its own building in Thatcham, with a loan provided by Lloyds Bank. This offered financial security for the ISC for years to

come. Anthony put a lot of effort into keeping the ISC going, navigating through financially difficult years while gaining the support of new member-institutions with the help of his ISC colleagues.

The ISC Bulletin, the Regional Catalogue, the Felt and Damaging Earthquakes, and the Bibliography of Seismology were produced at a steady pace, month after month, using a printer in Bangkok, Thailand. In early 1990s, Anthony organised the production of CD-ROMs at the ISC which became the most popular way of distributing the ISC data before distribution over the internet took over.

At the end of 1997 Anthony stepped down after more than 20 years as the ISC Director and a total of 33 years of service for the ISC. For his "services to global seismology", Anthony was honoured with the award of the *Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire* (OBE). In 2000, Anthony was presented with this award by Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace.

Anthony remained active in his retirement. He continued his bell ringing services at the St. Nicholas church in his home village of Old Marston, which he enjoyed for 40 years. He was also a Church Warden at the church of St. Thomas A'Beckett in the parish of Elsfield in Oxfordshire where he greatly helped fundraising efforts for the church restoration projects.



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