New Data Reporters

Despite the pandemic, the ISC continues to collect, integrate and process earthquake bulletins received from ~150 institutions.

Recently, we received the first bulletin of local, regional and teleseismic events from the Seismological Observatory of the University of Brasilia (agency code OSUNB), thanks to Juraci Mario de Carvalho, George Sand L. Araujo de Franca and Marcelo Peres Rocha.

Another regular contribution was started by Pawel J. Wiejacz, a seismologist from Poland (agency code PJWWP). It contains arrival times of regional and teleseismic events recorded at the private Raspberryshake station, installed in Waver - a quiet district of the city of Warsaw.

Staff developments

For over 12 years, bulletin reporters from ~100 countries were regularly corresponding with John Eve, the ISC Data Collection Officer. Not many realised that John's training was in piloting large aircrafts and teaching others to do so. Neither did John's correspondents realise that, unlike other ISC staff, John worked at his home in Scotland since 2011. So this year's remote working was nothing new to him.

John's internal discipline, speed and attention to detail served ISC well. Before retiring on Sept 30, John has trained his successor, Mr Gary Job, who started in July. Over the course of three months John and Gary communicated via Zoom, with Gary learning the tricks of the trade without ever meeting John in person. Gary is benefitting from data analysis skills obtained during his previous work for several businesses in the area. He is keen to continue John's work and “meet” with people all over the world whilst remaining in Thatcham.

In another development, an ISC seismologist, Hara Gkarlaouni finally received her PhD from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.

Benefits from registering as CIO

The recent registration of the ISC with the Charity Commission for England and Wales as a charitable incorporated organization (CIO) has brought its first dividends. West Berkshire Council has decided to reinstate its 80% relief on the local business rates – the local tax that every entity based in the county has to pay. By its monetary value, this support is equivalent to six regular 1-unit memberships.

Membership fees are long due

As the year 2020 progressed into its 4th quarter, we found that only 77% of all membership fees have been paid so far. We are urging our Member-Institutions to transfer the missing funds without further delay.