

Newsletters

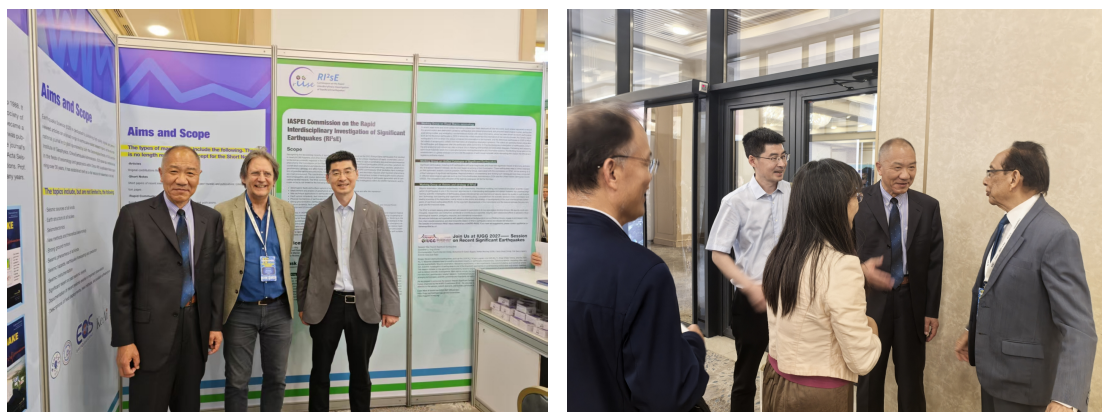
Vol.2 no.3 April, 2026

RI²sE Members Attend the ASC 2026 Conference

The ASC 2026 Conference was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from April 25 to 30, 2026. The meeting featured 22 thematic sessions, with a total of 322 abstracts submitted and over 300 participants representing 31 countries.

RI²sE was represented at the conference by its Chair, Li Ying, along with Scientific Advisors Harsh Gupta, Wu Zhongliang, Li Li, and Johannes Schweitzer.

Throughout the event, Li Ying and Wu Zhongliang held multiple productive discussions with Johannes Schweitzer and Harsh Gupta regarding both the ongoing work of RI²sE and its future strategic directions. They exchanged views on establishing new working groups, organizing an international workshop on seismic fieldwork, and proposing a dedicated session at the IUGG General Assembly in 2027. These proposals received strong encouragement from both advisors.



In parallel, RI²sE leaders engaged in extensive dialogue with the ASC leadership. ASC President Ruben Tatevossian described the RI²sE initiatives as “a very timely proposal,” noting that seismology has recently tended to drift away from real-world earthquake issues, and that seismic science and technology have a natural role to play in reversing that trend. Ruben Tatevossian further committed that, should the planned training course materialize, ASC experts—including himself—would be ready to contribute teaching materials and lectures.

The venue for the ASC 2028 conference is still under discussion, but if it is co-hosted in China alongside the 20th anniversary commemoration of the Wenchuan earthquake, the conditions for such a training event would be well aligned. This year, with the support of the Yunnan Earthquake Agency, the application for an international training course on seismic fieldwork has already been approved—serving as a valuable pilot for the larger-scale training envisioned in 2028.



Li Ying also met with Dmitry Storchak to discuss the RI²sE “Seismological Contact” working group, and the conversation was met with a positive response from both Dmitry Storchak and the International Seismological Centre (ISC).



International Contest on Aftershock Forecasting

Background

Earthquakes are among the most destructive natural disasters. Large earthquakes can cause significant economic losses and casualties. A destructive mainshock is usually followed by numerous aftershocks, and in some cases an earthquake of comparable or even greater magnitude may occur, causing further damage to already weakened buildings and infrastructure and affecting emergency response and post-disaster reconstruction. The frequency, magnitude, and spatial distribution of aftershocks are directly related to the effectiveness of emergency response and the rational allocation of resources. Therefore, accurate prediction of the largest aftershock, especially its magnitude and occurrence time, is of great importance.

At present, aftershock forecasting still faces many challenges, and most forecasting methods continue to rely on statistical models. In recent years, however, the rapid development of big data analytics, artificial intelligence, and related technologies has created new opportunities for improving aftershock forecasting. Advances in statistical methods, physical modeling, and AI-based approaches may lead to major breakthroughs in forecasting capability.

To promote progress in this field, **the International Contest on Aftershock Forecasting** has been launched. This contest aims to clarify key scientific and technological issues in earthquake-sequence forecasting, bring together global expertise, and promote interdisciplinary collaboration through emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and large models. It seeks to improve the accuracy of aftershock forecasting and to provide ideas and references for forecasting subsequent strong earthquakes in seismic sequences, thereby enhancing global capacity for earthquake disaster response.

Stage Schedule

- **Competition period:** March 31– November 30, 2026 (UTC Time)
- **Qualifying Stage** (March 31 – May 31, 2026): Teams will be evaluated on 20 historical aftershock sequences of $M_w \geq 6.0$ earthquakes.
- **Ranking Stage** (June 1 – November 30, 2026): Teams will forecast the largest aftershock for each newly occurring $M_w \geq 6.0$ mainshock with focal depth less than 70 km during the competition window. Rankings will be updated once a month.
- **Recommendation:** Submit predictions for all reported $M_w \geq 6.0$ events to ensure eligibility.

Awards

- Total prize pool:** USD 30,000 (all prize amounts are pre-tax)
- First Prize (1 award):** USD 10,000 and a certificate
- Second Prize (2 awards):** USD 5,000 each and a certificate
- Third Prize (5 awards):** USD 2,000 each and a certificate

Registration and Submission

Open worldwide to individuals and teams (maximum 5 people). Cross-disciplinary and cross-institutional collaboration is encouraged. Each participant can only join one team.

Please register and submit through the official Alibaba Cloud Tianchi Platform: <https://tianchi.aliyun.com/competition/entrance/532460>

Detailed rules, data information, and leaderboard updates are available on the same page.

Guiding Units

- Shanghai Artificial Intelligence Laboratory
- Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation, China Earthquake Administration (CEA)
- Department of Earthquake Monitoring and Forecasting, CEA

Sponsors

- Institute of Earthquake Forecasting, CEA
- China Earthquake Networks Center
- International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior (IASPEI) Commission on Rapid Interdisciplinary Investigation of Significant Earthquakes (RI²sE)

Co-sponsors

- SmartSolo Inc.
- Key Laboratory of Earthquake Forecasting and Risk Assessment, Ministry of Emergency Management
- Collaboratory for the Study of Earthquake Predictability (CSEP)
- Artificial Intelligence Branch for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, China Association for Disaster Prevention
- Commission on Seismic Artificial Intelligence, Seismological Society of China
- Commission on Seismic Observation Technology, Seismological Society of China
- Earthquake Science (an international journal)

Platform Support

- Alibaba Cloud Computing Co., Ltd.

Contact

For inquiries about registration, competition rules, dataset access, and submission, please contact the Organizing Committee at ICAF2026@126.com.

The prize money for this competition is exclusively sponsored by SmartSolo: <https://smartsolo.com>



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