

Training Course on Scientific Investigation Methods and Technologies of Large Earthquakes for the Belt and Road Initiative Countries Course Successfully Concludes

On July 2, the closing ceremony of the "Belt and Road" National Large Earthquake Scientific Investigation Methods and Technology Training Course was held in Kunming. Chen Yukun, Director of the Yunnan Earthquake Agency, and Luo Yongfeng of the Foreign Economic Relations Division of the Yunnan Provincial Department of Commerce, attended the closing ceremony, which was presided over by Yang Jun, Deputy Director of the Yunnan Earthquake Agency.

During the technical training session, the earthquake in Venezuela occurred. The international trainees put their knowledge into practice by expressing their own perspectives on the seismic event. RI²sE invited experts to give a report on the work it had carried out regarding the Venezuela earthquake. On that basis, the trainees made recommendations on RI²sE's work in both their national reports and the panel meetings.



The bird, trapped in the trench of the earthquake fault, may never imagine that she is dramatically saved by a group of scientists, participating in the international training course on earthquake science during a field visit to the Tonghai earthquake site. During the field

investigation, a little bird was trapped in an exploratory trench. The participating trainees worked together to rescue it and released it back into the mountains. One foreign trainee remarked, "We are always trying to save a life." This incident embodies the sense of responsibility and humanistic warmth of seismological workers.



RI²sE carries out work regarding the earthquake in Venezuela on June 24, 2026

After the earthquake, RI²sE communicated with relevant experts regarding the Venezuela earthquake on June 24, 2026. The specific details are as follows:

Subject:	Re: Re: Re: Rapid Interdisciplinary Investigation of significant Earthquakes, opportunity Venezuela
From:	"Michael Schmitz" <schmitzschutt@gmail.com> Jun 29, 2026 11:10:52 AM
To:	liying@ief.ac.cn
Cc:	ri2se@ief.ac.cn, fvispresidencia@gmail.com, anazeledon@gmail.com, joleonar@gmail.com, sbarrien@csn.uchile.cl, shaozg0911@126.com, wzl@ief.ac.cn
Attachments:	ATT00002.bin



Michael reaccionó a través de [Gmail](#)

El dom, 28 de jun de 2026, 23:05, liying <liying@ief.ac.cn> escribió:

Dear Michael,
About the Mou, and the personal, I am working on it, need some program and I reply you soon. this afternoon there will be a meeting , after that i will reply you, but for sure, we will support this and your country to do everything possible.
Take care and touch by heart!



Li Ying
Professor

Institute of Earthquake Forecasting
liying@ief.ac.cn
China Earthquake Administration

---- Replied Message ----

From: Michael Schmitz <schmitzschutt@gmail.com>
Date: 6/28/2026 20:34
To: 地震科考委员会 <ri2se@ief.ac.cn>
Cc: <fvispresidencia@gmail.com> ,
<anazeledon@gmail.com> ,
<joleonar@gmail.com> ,
<sbarrien@csn.uchile.cl> ,
<shaozg0911@126.com> ,
liying <liying@ief.ac.cn> ,
wzl <wzl@ief.ac.cn>
Subject: Re: Re: Rapid Interdisciplinary Investigation of significant Earthquakes, opportunity Venezuela

Dear Li Ying,
I attach a simple MOU as we are signing with other institutions involved in aftershock measurements.
Despite the equipment list, please, could you provide a preliminary list of personnel, their profession and nationalities?
Best regards, Michael

dom, 28 jun 2026 a las 6:41, 地震科考委员会 (<ri2se@ief.ac.cn>) escribió:

Dear Dr. Michael Schmitz,

We are compiling the preliminary equipment list and will send it to you as soon as possible. Could you please share what key content of the standard MOU covers?

Best regards

Li Ying

-----原始邮件-----

发件人: "Michael Schmitz" <schmitzschutt@gmail.com>
发送时间: 2026-06-28 13:25:14 (星期日)
收件人: 地震科考委员会 <ri2se@ief.ac.cn>
抄送: "fvispresidencia@gmail.com" <fvispresidencia@gmail.com>, "Ana María Pérez Zeledón" <anazeledon@gmail.com>, "Leonardo Alvarado" <joleonar@gmail.com>, sbarrien <sbarrien@csn.uchile.cl>, shaozg0911@126.com, liying <liying@ief.ac.cn>, wzl <wzl@ief.ac.cn>
主题: Re: Re: Rapid Interdisciplinary Investigation of significant Earthquakes, opportunity Venezuela

Given the time differences (12 hours, right?), I would like to ask you to set up a preliminary list of equipment in order to prepare customs Clearance. If you have a standard MOU I would appreciate working in this.

Which time window do you consider for direct communication?

Best regards Michael

El dom, 28 de jun de 2026, 01:17, Michael Schmitz <schmitzschutt@gmail.com> escribió:

Dear Li Ying,
thank you very much for this positive news in time of this big disaster for Venezuela.
I tried to install Wechat but I did not succeed - I will try again tomorrow with the help of my students.
Would Telegram be an option for communication?
I am sure we can overcome these limitations and establish tomorrow an effective

El dom, 28 jun 2026 a las 0:25, 地震科考委员会 (<ri2se@ief.ac.cn>) escribió:

Dear Dr. Michael Schmitz,

Thank you very much for your reply.

Our seismic field scientific investigation normally consist of several teams focusing on seismological subsurface structure and aftershock sequence analysis, seismogenic geological structures, seismic building damage surveys, sand liquefaction investigations, surface deformation measurements, and seismic fluid geochemistry.

Under the preliminary plan, we will bring portable observation equipment including seismometers, UAVs, GNSS receivers, fluid samplers and radon monitoring devices.

Regarding the WhatsApp coordination group you mentioned, we regret to inform you that there are official network restrictions on accessing WhatsApp within China, which prevents our team members from joining the group. Would it be possible for your team to install the WeChat APP instead? We can set up a WeChat group for real-time communication and coordination of all joint response activities.

The download website for Wechat is <https://www.wechat.com/en>

Best regards

Li Ying

IASPEI Comm. RI2sE

Institute of Earthquake Forecasting (IEF), CEA

-----原始邮件-----

发件人: "Michael Schmitz"
<schmitzschutt@gmail.com>

发送时间: 2026-06-27 21:32:29 (星期六)

收件人: 地震科考委员会 <ri2se@ief.ac.cn>, "fvispresidencia@gmail.com" <fvispresidencia@gmail.com>, "Ana María Pérez Zeledón" <anazeledon@gmail.com>, "Leonardo Alvarado" <joleonar@gmail.com>

抄送: sbarrien <sbarrien@csn.uchile.cl>,
shaozg0911@126.com, liying <liying@ief.ac.cn>, wzl <wzl@ief.ac.cn>

主题: Re: Rapid Interdisciplinary Investigation of significant
Earthquakes, opportunity Venezuela

Dear Dr. Li Ying,

I appreciate a lot your response regarding the rapid response. I am
copying the president of FUNVISIS, G/D Ing. Luis Jimenez, the
technical director, Ana Pérez and the seismologist Leonardo Alvarado.

We are actually trying to coordinate response actions with GFZ-
Potsdam, UTEP and OVSICORI. Is there a possibility to attach one of
your group to a Whatsapp-group, where we are coordinating these
activities?

Best regards,
Michael Schmitz

El vie, 26 jun 2026 a las 23:39, 地震科考委员会(<ri2se@ief.ac.cn>)
escribió:

Dear Dr. Sergio,

Hope this email finds you well.

Many thanks for sharing the information
regarding Dr. Michael Schmitz and the plan to deploy portable instruments
for aftershock research. The IASPEI Commission RI²sE is currently preparing
rapid response analysis and scientific investigations on Venezuela
earthquake, and we are eager to coordinate with local seismologists to
carry out this work.

Could you please provide the contact details of relevant counterparts in
Venezuela as you mentioned?

We appreciate your great support and look forward to your reply.

Best regards
Li Ying

IASPEI Comm. RI²sE

Institute of Earthquake Forecasting (IEF), CEA

-----原始邮件-----

发件人: sbarrien <sbarrien@csn.uchile.cl>

发送时间: 2026-06-25 10:54:34 (星期四)

收件人: 地震科考委员会 <ri2se@ief.ac.cn>

抄送: liying@ief.ac.cn, wzl@ief.ac.cn, schmitzschutt@gmail.com

主题: Rapid Interdisciplinary Investigation of significant Earthquakes, opportunity Venezuela

Dear IASPEI Commission on the Rapid Interdisciplinary Investigation of Significant Earthquakes (Comm. RI²sE)

I was contacted by Dr. Michael Schmitz, from Venezuela, regarding the possibility of a rapid deployment of portable equipment to study the aftershock sequence of the recent earthquakes.

I was wondering whether this could be an opportunity for Comm. RI²sE to step in and help the local seismologists.

Because I am located in Chile, I will give you the contact point in

Venezuela, if there is any chance to help so you make the arrangements
Dr. Michael Schmitz

schmitzschutt@gmail.com

Best wishes,

Sergio

SERGIO BARRIENTOS P.
Director
Centro Sismológico NacionalFacultad de Ciencias Físicas y Matemáticas
Universidad de Chile
correo: sbarrien@csn.uchile.cl

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Meanwhile, RI²sE also held internal discussions on this matter. Prof. Li Ying plans to organize and carry out the scientific field investigation on the Venezuela earthquake event. Here's the discussion from the member of RI²sE.

Re: Organization of the Venezuela Earthquake Scientific Investigation

Create Meeting
07/01/2026 00:19:48

From : "Mohamed ElGaby" <elgaby@mriag.sci.eg>

To : "地震科学委员会" <ri2se@ief.ac.cn>

Cc : "Johannes SCHWEITZER" <iaspei@norsar.no> "李丽" <lilygrace@cea-igp.ac.cn> "wzl" <wzl@ief.ac.cn> "Harsh Gupta" <harshg123@gmail.com> "Walter Mooney" <mooney@usgs.gov> "Prantik Mandal" <prantikmandal62@gmail.com> "liying" <liying@ief.ac.cn> [Hide details]

Dear Li Ying,

Thank you for your email and for promptly taking the lead on organising a scientific field investigation following the recent devastating earthquakes in Venezuela. I am doing well and remain fully supportive of this important mission. As the first major event since the establishment of RI2sE, this presents a critical opportunity to demonstrate the value of rapid interdisciplinary investigation.

I would be happy to actively participate and contribute. Please keep me informed about the proposed working schedule, specific field tasks, and coordination plans.

Additionally, I believe our collective inputs from this investigation could extend beyond immediate scientific analysis to provide long-term value, particularly in:

- Supporting **"Build Back Better"** strategies by offering evidence-based recommendations for more resilient reconstruction and improved building practices, especially in this case their are a lot of lessons related to the two events' relation and rupture process and how this impact the Seismic Hazard.
- Developing **sustainable monitoring solutions** tailored for regions with limited resources.
- Advancing practical **early warning systems** that can be effectively implemented in developing countries.

I am confident that the knowledge gained from Venezuela can contribute meaningfully to disaster risk reduction not only in Latin America but also in other vulnerable regions, including Africa.

Looking forward to your updates and to collaborating on this important effort.

Best regards,
Mohamed

Re: Organization of the Venezuela Earthquake Scientific Investigation

Create Meeting
07/02/2026 14:44:54

From : "Prantik Mandal" <prantikmandal62@gmail.com>

To : "地震科学委员会" <ri2se@ief.ac.cn>

Cc : "Johannes SCHWEITZER" <iaspei@norsar.no> "李丽" <lilygrace@cea-igp.ac.cn> "wzl" <wzl@ief.ac.cn> "Harsh Gupta" <harshg123@gmail.com> "Mohamed ElGaby" <elgaby@mriag.sci.eg> "Walter Mooney" <mooney@usgs.gov> "liying" <liying@ief.ac.cn> [Hide details]

Dear Prof. Li Ying and RI2sE colleagues,

Thank you for sharing the initiative to organize a training course and for taking the lead in planning the scientific investigation of the recent Venezuela twin earthquake. I sincerely appreciate the efforts of RI2sE in mobilizing an interdisciplinary response to this rare and significant event.

I fully support the proposal to carry out a focused field investigation, as such an effort will be invaluable not only for understanding the rupture process and the interaction between the two main shocks, but also for improving our knowledge of the resulting aftershock sequence, structural damage patterns, and the broader seismic hazard implications. In earthquakes of Mw 7 and above, it is common for multiple strong aftershocks to follow, and these can further weaken already damaged structures, hinder rescue and recovery operations, and prolong the period of elevated risk for affected communities.

I agree with Prof. HK Gupta that from a recovery and hazard-assessment perspective, it would be highly useful to estimate how long Mw 5 and larger aftershocks may continue after the Venezuela sequence, so that local authorities, responders, and the scientific community can better plan safe access, field operations, and reconstruction activities.

I wish the RI2sE initiative every success and hope the scientific investigation will produce important insights for both immediate response and long-term disaster risk reduction.

Warm regards and all the best,

Prantik

Dr. Prantik Mandal
DAE-Raja Ramanna Chair
CSIR-NGRI, Hyderabad-500007
Telangana, India

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Re: Organization of the Venezuela Earthquake Scientific Investigation

Create Meeting

07/01/2026 21:12:11

From:

Harsh Gupta <harshg123@gmail.com>

To:

liying <liying@ief.ac.cn>

Cc:

Mohamed ElGabry <elgabry@nriag.sci.eg>

地震科学委员会 <ni2se@ief.ac.cn>

Johannes SCHWEITZER <iaspei@norsar.no>

李颖 <lilygrace@cea-igp.ac.cn>

wzl <wzl@ief.ac.cn>

[and 2 more]

Attachments:

2 items

Final_published.pdf

View Attachment

Dear Li Ying,

Thank you for sharing the initiative to organize a training course. I appreciate the efforts being made to survey the recent tragic earthquakes in Venezuela.

The main shock earthquakes of Mw 7 and larger have several Mw 5 and larger aftershocks. Structures already weakened by the main shock often collapse due to these aftershocks. Having an estimate of how long these aftershocks will continue is useful for planning the recovery of the affected area. Such an exercise was carried out for the disastrous 2023 Turkey earthquake. Using the data of the first 44 days, it was estimated that Mw 5 and larger aftershocks would continue for 250 days. However, such aftershocks continued for 191 days (attachments).

Wishing your initiative all the best.

Best wishes,

Harsh

Contact addresses:

Qi Pengju: qipj@ief.ac.cn | Li Ying: liying@ief.ac.cn