

Newsletters

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The first RI²sE business meeting

Commission held its business meeting on line on February 11, 2026. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Li Ying, Chairman of the Commission. Ms. Zhu Fangfang, Deputy Director of the Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation, China Earthquake Administration (CEA), attended the meeting. Prof. Johannes Schweitzer, Secretary-General of IASPEI and Scientific Advisor of the Commission, Prof. Mohamed El-Gabry, Member of the Commission and President of the African Seismological Commission (AfSC), and Prof. Prantik Mandal, Member of the Commission, participated online. Prof. Wu Zhongliang, Scientific Advisor of the Commission, Prof. Fang Lihua, Deputy Director of the Institute of Earthquake Forecasting (IEF), CEA, Ms. Tian Wenjun and Mr. Qi Pengju, Secretaries of the Commission, attended the meeting.

In the meeting, Prof. Li Ying expressed gratitude to all the organizations for their support in the establishment of the Commission. Based on the Commission Scope, the meeting deliberated the working promise of the Commission, and discussed the proposal for the session “Recent Significant Earthquakes” in the 2027 IUGG General Assembly, Incheon. The participants also exchanged views on cooperation between RI²sE and the Asian Seismological Commission (ASC), the African Seismological Commission (AfSC), and the Commission on Seismological Observation and Interpretation (CoSOI).

Prof. Wu Zhongliang, Advisor of the Commission, was invited to deliver a presentation on the scientific issues related to the Commission’s Working Groups (WGs). Mr. Qi Pengju, Secretary of the Commission, presented the Commission’s website and Newsletters.





International Contest on Aftershock Forecasting is Coming Soon

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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