GSN Station Operator Training

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Training of local station operators continues to play an important role in the success of the GSN. During November 2001, UCSD hosted a training session for IRIS/IDA station operators whose stations also function as part of the UN’s International Monitoring System (IMS). The program, which was sponsored by the United Nations CTBTO, brought together operators from Chile, Fiji, Iceland, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Peru, Russia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and Uganda to learn more about the GSN data acquisition system. Operators were given a thorough orientation to the proper operation of all hardware, taught basic equipment troubleshooting procedures, and coached in the usage of software for data acquisition and review.

We expect that training will become an increasingly important issue to GSN hosts in the future. There is a scarcity of trained seismologists in many developing countries, yet the information demands placed by host governments upon nascent national seismic networks are as great as those in technologically advanced nations. As new emergency response infrastructure develops following the Sumatra-Andaman earthquake and tsunami, GSN station host institutions will need personnel familiar not only with the operation of the equipment itself but with the interpretation of the data collected. By assisting local groups to integrate GSN data into their own network data flow and to improve their data analysis capabilities, the GSN will garner tremendous good will among its foreign affiliates throughout the world.

Participants in the UN IMS Technical Training Program for IRIS/IDA station operators held at the Cecil H. and Ida M. Green Institute for Geophysics and Planetary Physics, San Diego, California from 5-9 November 2001.