

## Visiting Program for researchers at Earthquake Research Institute



G: Geoffrey Abers (Professor, Cornell University, USA)

JP: Jean-Pierre Vilotte (Professor, IPGP, France)

V: Vukobratovic, Vladimir (Assistant Professor, University of Novi Sad, Serbia)

**We offer a unique opportunity for researchers worldwide to stay for collaborative research, from a few weeks to one year at the Earthquake Research Institute, the University of Tokyo. On Feb. 19th 2020, three current visitors talked to us about their experiences at ERI.**

Facilitator: Masa Kinoshita, Head of International Office

### Q. What is the topic of your research here, and why did you choose ERI?

V: A visit to ERI gives me a unique opportunity to access a huge amount of data from instrumented buildings, which helps me to expand the research from my Ph.D. thesis in 2015. My four-month stay is greatly supported by Dr. Kusunoki, through regular meetings and discussions.

JP: I am working on new statistical data analysis of slow earthquakes activity in active subduction zones from seismic geodetic observations. ERI is one the most knowledgeable place in the world for slow earthquakes research. With Professor Obara, we have been collaborating and exchanging students and post-docs through the long-standing collaboration between ERI and IPGP.

G: I chose ERI to stay for my sabbatical because I knew this is the best place as seismologist to study partial melting in deep earth through seismic observation. There are only two labs in the world that make relevant measurements at seismic frequencies. I have known Dr. Takei and her post-docs for ten years, but this is our first opportunity to collaborate.

### Q. What is your impression about research environment here?

V: I have perfect communication with my host and cooperative colleagues. Our collaboration exceeded the expected level.

JP: I found here a unique opportunity to exchange and leverage scientific understanding and thinking behind slow earthquake obser-

ventions. This requires time and cannot be easily gained otherwise. The ERI environment allows working on complicated issues benefiting from interaction with disciplines other than Earth Sciences.

G: ERI has perhaps the biggest collection of expert seismologists. It is valuable to talk with them, especially about research that bridges complicated experiments and observations. Language barriers exist between English and Japanese, and between seismologists and experimentalists. However, there is much time in this environment to allow complicated issues to be discussed. It is hard to find the place like this.

### Q. What do you think about our visiting program?

G: There are a lot of programs for young post-docs or Ph.D. students, while not many for senior researchers.

V: This is a special kind of academic freedom, without typical every-day duties. I find that it is very important and beneficial to spend time like this, especially for young researchers.

JP: It is a unique opportunity at a senior research level. Beyond language barriers, I enjoyed the wide spectrum of seminars that allow discovering young researchers. The visiting program helps building up and nourishing scientific collaborations at different levels in a long-term perspective.



Masa Kinoshita, Head of International Office

### Long-term visiting program for professors / post-docs

- Term: 4 - 12 months between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022
- Application Deadline: August 14, 2020

### Short-term visiting program for researchers

- Term: Up to 3 months between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022
- Application deadline: Fall 2020

For more information: International Research Promotion Office <http://www.eri.u-tokyo.ac.jp/kokusai/english/index.html>