

Visit of Chris Scholz to ERI, 5/9/15 to 6/6/15

This visit marks almost the 40th anniversary of my first extended visit to ERI, in 1976. In the meantime there have been many collaborations and exchanges of visits between my group at Lamont and ERI personnel. So this visit had a sense of a reunion, in which I was able to once again meet many former colleagues and become acquainted with their current activities and interests. We had a chance to discuss many topics that remain our shared interests.

A highlight of my visit was a five-day field excursion to Shikoku to study the uplifted marine terraces of Muroto and Ashizuri misaki. The trip was led by Prof. Yoko Ota, the reigning expert on these terraces. The mechanism of uplift of these terraces is a longstanding problem in the tectonics of the Nankai subduction zone and one that has fascinated me for many years. Profs. Kato and Aoki also participated in this trip. Prof. Aoki and I have recently been working on a hypothesis regarding the uplift of these terraces so this trip gave us an opportunity to see the evidence first hand and to discuss the consequences of many new ideas thus stimulated.

I also had the opportunity to discuss with many ERI staff members the new ideas about the earthquake mechanism that have been learned from the great 2011 Tohoku-oki earthquake. This visit has been greatly stimulating for me and I hope also for my ERI colleagues who I was able to interact with.