

PRESS RELEASE

3rd April 2017

UK-Italian earthquake collaboration gets a Royal audience

A seismologist from the British Geological Survey (BGS) and another from the National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology in Italy (INGV) met with Prince Charles in Amatrice today. The scientists were among the international team that updated him on the on-going collaboration and reconstruction efforts since the earthquake struck in August last year.

Prince Charles visited Amatrice and saw the abandoned 'red zone' that was destroyed by the earthquake and laid a wreath in memory of those that had lost their lives. He was then welcomed at an event attended by numerous organisations and individuals affected by the tragedy and been instrumental in the relief effort including emergency services, charities and British citizens that were living locally. The BGS was represented at the invitation of the British Ambassador to Italy as a result of collaborative work in further understanding the earthquake.

The BGS has been on the ground together with colleagues from the INGV since the very first days following the Amatrice earthquake. Since then, a large number of seismic instruments have been deployed in the affected area to improve monitoring of earthquake activity as it unfolds.



From left to right: Jill Morris (British Ambassador to Italy), HRH Prince Charles, Dr Lauro Chiaraluce (INGV), Dr Margarita Segou (BGS).

Earthquake Seismologist with the BGS, Dr Margarita Segou together with Dr Lauro Chiaraluce from INGV, attended the event and had the opportunity to discuss briefly with Prince Charles the ongoing collaboration, whether earthquakes can be predicted and how the earth was shaken during the time of the earthquake.

Dr Margarita Segou explained further: *"Today, we participated in the event involving the local community and international teams for the reconstruction of Amatrice. In the presence of Prince Charles, our message that only with close scientific collaboration can we respond better in times of disaster is now stronger than ever."*

The data that is being collected from the UK-Italian network will enable scientists to assess, model and understand how large earthquakes are generated and help mitigate future disasters.

Ends



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Notes for Editors:

The following are available for interview:

- Dr Margarita Segou, British Geological Survey

For additional information go to: www.bgs.ac.uk

The British Geological Survey

The British Geological Survey (BGS), a component body of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), is the nation's principal supplier of objective, impartial and up-to-date geological expertise and information for decision making for governmental, commercial and individual users. The BGS maintains and develops the nation's understanding of its geology to improve policy making, enhance national wealth and reduce risk. It also collaborates with the national and international scientific community in carrying out research in strategic areas, including energy and natural resources, our vulnerability to environmental change and hazards, and our general knowledge of the Earth system. More about the BGS can be found at www.bgs.ac.uk.

The Natural Environment Research Council

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) is the UK's main agency for funding and managing world-class research, training and knowledge exchange in the environmental sciences. It coordinates some of the world's most exciting research projects, tackling major issues such as climate change, food security, environmental influences on human health, the genetic make-up of life on earth, and much more. NERC receives around £300 million a year from the government's science budget, which it uses to fund research and training in universities and its own research centres. www.nerc.ac.uk

National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology

The Italian National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology (INGV), currently the largest European body dealing with research in geophysics and volcanology, has its headquarters in Rome and other important facilities in Milan, Bologna, Pisa, Naples, Catania and Palermo. The main mission of INGV is the monitoring of geophysical phenomena in both the soil and fluid components of the Earth. It carries out 24-hour countrywide seismic monitoring, real-time volcano monitoring, early warning and forecast activities. In addition to being analysed for research and civil defence purposes, the data supplied by numerous monitoring networks are regularly distributed to the public institutions concerned, to the scientific community and to the public. www.ingv.it/en/