

Highlight

The EMS Annual Meeting and the European Conference on Applied Climatology take place from 29 September to 3 October 2008 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. On-site registration for a single day or more than one day is available. Information about the Annual Meeting and associated events can be found at meetings.copernicus.org/ems2008.

News from the Membership

► Chief Scientist at the Met Office

Julia Slingo, the incoming President of the Royal Meteorological Society, has been appointed as the Chief Scientist of the Met Office. At present she is a Professor of Meteorology at the University of Reading and Director of Climate Research at the National Centre for Atmospheric Science. She was also a founding director of the Walker Institute for Climate System Research at the University of Reading and has been a contributor to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

► 125 Years of DMG

The German Meteorological Society DMG is celebrating its 125th Anniversary on 7 November 2008 in Hamburg. More information is available at www.dmg-ev.de

► New Spanish State Agency

A Royal Decree, issued on 8 February 2008, has created the **Agencia Estatal de Meteorología** (Meteorological State Agency) from the transformation of the National Institute of Meteorology (INM). The new State Agency acquired its legal status in the frame of the law

on state agencies for the improvement of public services issued on 18 July 2006. It has adopted the designation **AEMet** for general use. The Agency assumes all the responsibilities and tasks it had been carrying out as INM.

► ECMWF's Scientific Meetings

Presentations from the following recent events can be found by going to ecmwf.int/newsevents/calendar and choosing a particular event.

- ECMWF 2008 Annual Seminar on Parametrization of Subgrid Physical Processes
- Forecast Products Users Meeting
- GRAS SAF Workshop on Applications of GPS Radio Occultation Measurements

► EUMETSAT supports the GMES initiative

EUMETSAT has agreed to provide its data and products for the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) initiative. The agreement covers GMES pre-operational services from 2008–2010, during which all EUMETSAT data and products, including real-time data, will be made available free of charge to the five GMES Core Services. The three fast track services are the Land Core Service, Marine Core Service and Emergency Response Support Service, and the two pilot services are Security and Atmosphere Monitoring.

► Donation of journals

The RMets has decided to support the training and research at WMO Regional Training Centres (RTCs) by donating its journals free of charge for the period 2008–2015. Of the 22 RTCs there are 14 that have taken up the offer of journals.

► RMets Awards

The Royal Meteorological Society is inviting nominations for nine awards to be submitted by 23 November 2008. More information is available at www.rmets.org/news.

Meetings

- ♦ CLIMATE 2008: **A climate conference on the Internet**, 3–7 November 2008 www.klima2008.net
- ♦ Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges and Decisions, 10–12 March 2009, Copenhagen climatecongress.ku.dk
- ♦ IHDP Open Meeting 2009 Social Challenges of Global Change, 26–30 April 2009, Bonn
- ♦ EMS Annual Meeting & ECAM, 14–18 September 2009, Toulouse
- ♦ 5th European Conference on Severe Storms, 12–16 October 2009, Landshut, Germany

News

Open University Weather Course

The Open University in the UK has produced a new short course on weather in partnership with the Royal Meteorological Society. The course provides an introduction to weather patterns and events around the world. As well as completing assignments the students are required to undertake a small project in which they will develop their ability to observe their local weather. The course is 100 hours of study at introductory university level.

Forecast run on a cell phone

Peter Lynch from University College Dublin has coded a program using Java ME (J2ME) to integrate the barotropic vorticity equation. One of the forecasts originally run on the ENIAC in 1950 has been run on a cell-phone – PHONIAc. The 24-hour forecast executes in less than a second. More information is available at: mathsci.ucd.ie/~plynch/eniac/phoniac.html.






Awards



The **EMS Young Scientist Award 2008** is awarded to **Edit Hágel** of the Hungarian Meteorological Service for her publication *The ARPEGE/ALADIN limited area ensemble prediction system: the impact of global targeted singular vectors.*

Young Scientist Travel Awards

EMS & ECAC 2008, Amsterdam:

 <p>Anton Shkaruba University Budapest Extreme midlatitude cyclones and their relationship to large-scale modes of variability in the Northern Hemisphere</p>	 <p>Gabriella Szepszo Hungarian Met. Service Preliminary results based on the climate change simulation with the REMO model over the Carpathian Basin</p>	 <p>Valerie Trouet Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL A multi-proxy reconstruction of multidecadal winter NAO variability over the past millennium</p>
<p>Ivana Cvijanovic University of Tübingen The influence of shallow subsurface moisture and heat transport on the mass and energy balances at the land surface</p> 	<p>Katja Matthes Free University, Berlin Modelling Solar Cycle and QBO effects in the Atmosphere</p> 	<p>Linus Magnusson Stockholm University A new method for ensemble prediction</p> 
<p>John Hanley University College Dublin</p>	<p>Extreme midlatitude cyclones and their relationship to large-scale modes of variability in the Northern Hemisphere</p>	
<p><i>ECMWF Annual Seminar 2008:</i></p>	<p>Swati Gehlot MPI for Meteorology, Hamburg</p>	
<p><i>13th AMS Mountain Met Conference, Whistler, Canada:</i></p>	<p>Wolfgang Langhans University of Innsbruck</p>	<p><i>Numerical sensitivity study of August 2005 Alpine flood</i></p>
<p><i>10th Plinius Conference on Mediterranean Storms, Nicosia, Cyprus:</i></p>	<p>Stavroula Stolaki Aristotle University of Thessaloniki</p>	<p><i>Study of fog occurrences' characteristics at Thessaloniki Airport as a forecasting tool</i></p>
<p><i>4th Earth Observation Summer School, Frascati, Italy:</i> Three poster awards were made.</p>	<p>Rosemary Willatt, CPOM, University College London, UK Christoph Aubrecht, Austrian Research Centers, Austria Christian Milzow, ETHZ, Switzerland</p>	

The EMS Broadcast Meteorologist Award

Mr. Bill Giles (O.B.E) has quite literally spent his entire career forwarding the field of Broadcast Meteorology. His long professional career encompassed decades on air-work, culminating in his leadership of the team of Broadcast Meteorologists at the BBC Weather Centre. He has staunchly supported and helped to drive the developing industry of "scientifically sound" weather presentations with his constant mentoring of younger broadcasters.



Outreach & Communication

In 2008 the EMS Outreach & Communication Award was announced. The aim is to collect examples of best practice in communicating science. Proposals received in 2008 are summarized here. More information will be provided on the EMS website. The Award will be presented during the EMS Annual Meeting & ECAC on 1 October 2008.

Saptama de vreme

"Saptama de vreme" which translates to "Weekly weather", is the first and the only weather and climate TV-show in Romania. Since September 2005 it has been broadcast on the Realitatea TV-news channel every Sunday at 6:45 pm for 30 minutes. The broadcast aims to communicate the science of meteorology, climatology and related phenomena in an appealing way to the general public. It also advises people on how to live in harmony with the weather and keep the environment clean and safe.

Emphasis is put on the most representative weather events in Romania or abroad, and the "secrets" of various meteorological phenomena are unveiled to the public. Answers to simple but important questions related to atmospheric phenomena are provided by two meteorologists and sometimes by invited specialists.

Meteox.com

The aim of the meteox.com website is to allow end users, both private and professional, to obtain real-time European weather data for free. In this way end users can decide for themselves what the current weather would mean for them on the short term.

The company behind the concept, Buienradar B.V., originally started with a similar website in the Netherlands called Buienradar.nl. The massive

attention from end users for this website prompted the expansion to a Europe-wide information site. A new source of information has been created by providing real-time images of cloud, rainfall, temperature and wind direction through the internet. For meteox.com the data are bought from various sources, including KNMI (The Netherlands) and DWD (Germany).

Ekstremværuka

The Extreme Weather Week is the most extensive popular scientific effort undertaken in Norway. In just one week, NRK broadcast 125 TV programmes and more than 200 radio programmes focusing wholly or partially on weather and climate. The issue was also in focus on websites, teletext, WAP, DAB radio and jukebox TV.

The Extreme Weather Week contributed to increased awareness about an intriguing and important issue for society as a whole through a finely tuned mix of serious and entertaining programmes. It was a co-operative effort by the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation, the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training, the Norwegian Meteorological Institute and the Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research. Twinning the professional knowledge from scientists with journalistic skills and the distribution network helps meet the public need for sound knowledge about weather and climate.

EMMA project

Meteoalarm is a website designed by the EUMETNET EMMA project to make the general public aware of severe weather across Europe.

The meteoalarm concept is based on assessing impact and damage. Thus awareness levels are assigned in a coherent and consistent way all over Europe.

For example a 10 cm snowfall event in the Low Countries will trigger an orange alert, while the same amount in Alpine regions will only cause a green or perhaps yellow awareness level.

At its one-year anniversary on 23 March 2008, the site counted almost 3 million unique visitors, amounting to 500 million of hits.

Bridging the Gap

BtG conferences are aimed at improving communication between scientists, policy-makers, politicians, economists and civil society, and proposing initiatives.

The 4th BtG conference in May 2008 stressed the need for systems for the collection, analysis and presentation of environmental data to be more efficient and effective in meeting the needs of stakeholders. Also discussed were the ways in which science could play a more effective role in supporting policy-making processes.