



Highlights

New EMS President elected



The EMS Council elected Fritz Neuwirth, Austria, as the new president of the EMS for a three-year term.

He succeeds David Burrige of the RMetS, UK, who will now be able to spend more time playing golf after a successful period as EMS President.

More information on the current Council composition is available at www.emetsoc.org/organisation/organisation.php.

EMS Silver Medal 2009

EMS Member Societies and EMS Associate Members have been invited to make nominations for the EMS Silver Medal 2009. This award is presented annually to a person that has made distinguished contributions to the development of meteorology in Europe. Nominations must be accompanied by the following information about the nominee:

- A short curriculum vitae.
- A statement about achievements and contributions to the development of meteorology in Europe.

Nominations must reach the Executive Secretary by 15 February 2009.

EMS Annual Meeting & ECAC 2008

The EMS Annual Meeting and ECAC in Amsterdam was attended by more than 600 participants from across Europe and beyond.

A photo gallery is available at meetings.copernicus.org/ems2008/for_the_media. Presentations can be found at emetsoc.org/annual_meetings/presentations_2008.php.

Media Awards

During the EMS Annual Meeting and the European Conference on Applied Climatology in Amsterdam, the Media Awards were presented.

▶ Jill Peeters of the Flemish TV Channel vtm received the **TV Weather Forecast Award**.



▶ The **Outreach & Communication Award** was presented to the EUMETNET Project EMMA for the development of the meteolarm website, and to Svein Haaland & Extremværuka, Norway, for the Extreme Weather Week Project.



EUMETNET Project EMMA: Michael Staudinger (ZAMG, left) and Frank Kroonenberg (KNMI, right), with Tanja Cegnar (EARS, Slovenia) presenting the Award.



Svein Haaland (NRK, Norway; middle) and Andreas Grimsæth (NRK, right) with Tanja Cegnar presenting the Award Trophy (all three photos: H. Verloop)

News from the Membership

▶ AME's photography competition

Following the excellent response in previous years, the **Spanish Meteorological Association** has announced the photography competition "Meteo-reportaje 2008".

People from around the world are invited to participate by sending entries by 15 February 2009 to fotoconcursos@ame-web.org. Submission requires six photos of weather events that occurred in 2008, and a description of each of the events. More information is available at www.ame-web.org (in Spanish).

▶ Swedish Awards

The **Swedish Meteorological Society** has made two Awards: The Memory of Christer Morales Award 2007 to Anders Engström, and the Travel Award of SAAB Combitech to Linus Magnusson.

▶ WiKED

The **Royal Meteorological Society** has established a project aimed at increasing the membership of the Society. As well as increasing membership from the amateur and professional meteorological communities, the Society plans to introduce a junior membership category entitled WiKED (Weather in Kids Education). A competition has been run for children to design a logo for this new membership category. The winning logos can be seen at www.rmets.org/news/detail.php?ID=516.

9TH EMS Annual Meeting
9TH European conference on
Applications of Meteorology

**High resolution meteorology
- applications and services**

28 September - 2 October 2009
Toulouse, France
meetings.copernicus.org/ems2009

News

► **ESSL receives 'Landmark' Award** The European Severe Storms Laboratory (ESSL) has been selected for an award by the German government. The *European Severe Weather Database ESWD* was chosen as one of the "365 Landmarks in the Land of Ideas" 2009 (see www.land-of-ideas.org).

Recently, ESSL had gone operational with a completely revised ESWD software version. This renders display and quality-control of data on its multilingual public web portal www.essl.org/ESWD more convenient. Options for weather services to collaborate have been enhanced: this includes customised protected web interfaces for partner weather services and local ESWD installations in the weather service's intranet. Currently, four weather services are ESSL partners: AEMet, DWD, NIMH, ZAMG.

► **Earth Observation Handbook** The Handbook has just been released and is available online at www.eohandbook.com. It explains the vital role played by Earth observation satellites in providing the information needed by governments and policymakers. Prepared under the auspices of ESA on behalf of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), the Handbook provides an overview of existing Earth Observation (EO) missions, their instruments and the plans for upcoming missions.

► **Forum on disaster reduction** Around 170 experts from Germany, Austria and Switzerland discussed the challenges for disaster reduction in the 21st century during the 9th DKKV-Forum on 20 and 21 November 2008 in Offenbach. For the first time, the German Weather

Service DWD hosted this forum of the German Committee for Disaster Reduction DKKV - the national platform in Germany within the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). The forum discussed strategies for adaptation to climate change focussing on urban and regional planning, improvement of natural hazard forecast and warning systems, vital infrastructure and the energy sector, and contingency management.

► **Earth Explorer**

ESA has been working on candidates for the fourth Core Mission of Earth Explorer which is planned to be launched in the first half of the next decade. The six mission concepts being evaluated are:

- **SCOPE**: Observes atmospheric carbon dioxide.
- **BIOMASS**: Observes global forest biomass.
- **COREH20**: Observes snow and ice.
- **FLEX**: Observes photosynthesis.
- **PREMIER**: Observes atmospheric composition.
- **TRAQ**: Observes tropospheric composition.

The third Core Mission, Earth Clouds Aerosols and Radiation Explorer (EarthCARE), was selected in 2004 and will be launched in 2012. For more information see www.esa.int/esaLP/LPearthexp.html.

► **EUMETSAT Web Portal**

EUMETSAT has launched a new web portal, providing a central point for online access to all EUMETSAT weather and climate data and dissemination services. Using state-of-the-art portal technology and featuring interoperability and standard metadata, the application, known as the 'Product Navigator', went online on 18 November 2008. It can be found at: navigator.eumetsat.int/discovery/Explore.do.

► **GIS/OGC standards**

Météo-France, the UK Met Office and ECMWF jointly organised a workshop on the use of GIS systems in meteorology. The workshop was held at ECMWF in November 2008. Its aim was to:

- Review the use of OGC standards in geo-sciences
- Promote collaboration between meteorological services in order to define a set of common standards to enhance interoperability.

The outcome of the workshop is the establishment of a roadmap for further collaborations and the setting up of testbeds to guarantee interoperability of OGC compliant web services for meteorological data and visualisation. The presentations can be found at: www.ecmwf.int/newsevents/meetings/workshops/2008/OGC_workshop.

Meetings

- ◆ **Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges and Decisions**, 10–12 March 2009, Copenhagen climatecongress.ku.dk
- ◆ **6th Symposium on Meteorology and Geophysics of APMG & 10th Portuguese-Spanish Meeting on Meteorology** Natural Disasters - A Challenge for Humanity 16–18 March 2009, Aldeia dos Capuchos: simposio.apmg.pt
- ◆ **RMets's 2009 Conference** 'Meteorological Science in time and space – from local weather to global climate' 29 June to 2 July 2009, Reading www.rmets.org/events/conference
- ◆ **5th European Conference on Severe Storms**, 12–16 October 2009, Landshut