

# Report

## 31<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Alpine Meteorology

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My participation to the 31<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Alpine Meteorology, that was held in Aviemore (Scotland – UK) from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2011, was supported by an EMS Young Scientist Travel Award and I would like to kindly thank the European Meteorological Society for giving me this opportunity.

The Award was given to me for presenting an oral contribution whose title was: “Analysis of the thermal structure of the *Ora del Garda* wind from airborne and surface measurements”, by Lavinia Laiti, Dino Zardi and Massimiliano de Franceschi. It was indeed a great honor for me to receive this price.

During the conference I had the opportunity to meet several people interested in the same research field of mine, other PhD students as well as researchers and professors. I think the scientific level of the conference was very high, partly due to the fact that it was very specific as for the range of topics, exploring different branches of meteorological science but focusing on a single environment, the Alpine one.

Some sessions were more interesting than others, in particular those dealing with thermally driven local flows, boundary layer evolution and atmospheric numerical models: “Dynamics” (the session where I gave my talk too), “Field Experiments-COPS/From ALPEX to HYMEX”, “Slope and Coastal Flows”, “Boundary Layer Evolution and Turbulent Flows”, “Forecasting and Modeling”. These were the sessions that have more to do with my current PhD research activity, that consists in the analysis of the patterns of local winds (valley and lake breezes) from field data and (in the near future) with the numerical simulation of such circulations. By the way, I thought that especially the “Slope and Coastal Flows” session was of very high value for the scientific relevance of the contributions. From the sessions dealing with experimental field measurements, I could learn more about the existence and the potential of some instrumentations I was not so familiar with, such as Doppler SODAR and LIDAR to measure vertical wind profiles and bidimensional fields; in addition I got some criteria about how to eventually organize and manage the installation of standard instruments in a way that would be proper to measurement campaign aims.

The two most interesting talks, as for my research interests, were those by Haraldur Ólafsson (“The sea breeze and the upslope wind”) and Stefano Serafin (“Daytime development of the boundary layer over a plain and in a valley under fair weather conditions: A comparison by means of idealized numerical simulations”).

The fact that the conference participants were not so many, was a positive aspect in my opinion; it gave to me the opportunity to interact with people in a more productive way, leaving a lot of time to discuss in front of the posters and after particularly stimulating talks. I had very precious exchanges about numerical

models and their requirements and characteristics during the poster sessions and the coffee breaks. The little number of people gave origin in general to a more relaxed and comfortable atmosphere.

Lastly, I would like to recognize the great work done by the organizing staff of NCAS and Met Office and to express my appreciation for the recreational moments that were proposed to the conveners; I didn't take part in the "Whisky tasting" but I enjoyed the conference dinner at the Ptarmigan Restaurant and it was really nice, as for the impressive place and the excellent food.

I'd like to thank again the EMS for awarding me the YSTA to attend this event, that revealed to be very pleasant and still so fruitful for my studies,

Lavinia Laiti