



NUI MAYNOOTH
Ollscoil na hÉireann Má Nuad

Report on the 26th EUMETSAT Meteorological Satellite Conference, 3-7 September 2012, Sopot, Poland

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First of all I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to the Irish and European Meteorological Society, Andrea Oestreich, Martina Junge and Emily Gleeson (my contacts at the European Meteorological Society and secretary of the Irish Meteorological Society), the reviewers of the YSTA applications and EMS for providing me with one of the Young Scientist Travel Awards facilitating my attendance at the 2012 EUMETSAT Meteorological Satellite Conference in Sopot. This was an amazing opportunity and I am privileged to have been in receipt of this award. Moreover, as the only delegate at the conference from an Irish institute, this award had the added meaning of ensuring participants in all EUMETSAT member states were represented at the conference, which would not have been possible otherwise.

EUMETSAT have a long running series of successful conferences stretching back to 1986 and this year (the 26th in the series) was no exception. This year the conference was organized by EUMETSAT (European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites) in cooperation with Polish Institute of Meteorology and Water Management-National Research Institute (IMGW-PIB) who were also hosting the event. The event boasted over 400 international participants from universities, research institutes and

weather services and EUMETSAT 2013 in Vienna looks set to attract 600 or so participants.

The ambitions program for the five days was divided into 9 parallel sessions:

1. Current and future satellites, instruments and their applications
2. Monitoring climate and understanding climate processes based on satellite data
3. Atmospheric composition
4. The hydrological cycle
5. Sensor inter-calibration for climate data records
6. Satellite-based observations of the oceans
7. Forecasting and Nowcasting
8. Training
9. Data access for easy utilisation

The conference also held a number of workshops for participants; these were run by the WMO, NOAA and EUMETSAT. Generous time was given over to poster contributions, two dedicated sessions of between 2 and 4 hours were organised for Tuesday and Thursday evening. Ample space was given over to poster presenters and the organising body must be praised for the logical and seamless way the foyer display area was laid out, this meant moving from poster to poster almost seemed like a journey through the field of Satellite



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Meteorology to the observer. Participants must also be praised for the high standard of contributions this year. All the posters were excellent. The oral program was also of an extremely high standard, striking the delicate balance of being condensed yet comprehensive.

The Plenary was held on Wednesday in the Columbus Room and was well attended as the room was at capacity (approximately 50% or 240 of the participants attended). The talk was given by Dr. Christopher (Chris) Kidd of the CMNS-Earth System Science Interdisciplinary Center, University of Maryland. Chris's talk was on Global Precipitation and the challenges satellite meteorologist face into the future; for instance dealing with shrinking budgets (less satellite missions) and the continuing challenge of instrument resolution and coverage. However, he ended the talk with a touch of optimism looking ahead to the launch of The Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) Mission (2014 - which had many of the delegates very excited indeed - including the author!). A touching tribute was paid to Madeleine Pooley at the Plenary who is stepping down as secretariat of EUMETSAT, Madeleine has been organising conferences since the first conference in 1986, she was presented with a certificate listing all the conferences she had organised during that time, thus, the

certificated extended to well over 2.2 meters when fully laid out.

My contribution was entitled *Empirical and modelled relationships between remotely sensed data and the urban climate of Dublin* and was part of session 2 (Monitoring climate and understanding climate processes based on satellite data) the sub-section of this was Surface Radiation Climatology.

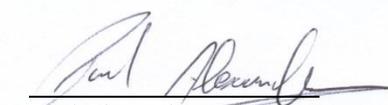
As a PhD student entering into their 2nd year, such conferences are invaluable as they provide the only means through which an international audience can judge the current trajectory of your work, offer feedback and even offer insights that can take you into a completely new direction that you otherwise would not have considered. For that reason I am exceedingly and eternally grateful for the opportunity to present my work thanks to the EMS YSTA award, the feedback and suggestions I received in Poland have me well placed to move forward in my PhD.

My thanks to all those who took the time to engage with me during the conference, and for providing such wonderful and original suggestions.

Finally to the People of Sopot who made the surroundings for the conference so warm and welcoming - they ensured leaving for home was indeed a sad occasion.

Go raibh míle maith agat an méid sin chun an deis ,
Is mise le meas agus Measúil

(1,000 thanks onto you for the opportunity)
(Yours in sincerity and respect)



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