

Report on 11th EMS Annual Meeting/10th ECAM Conference, Berlin, 2011

First of all, I must thank the European Meteorological Society for granting me a “Young Scientist Travel Award”, related to my attendance at the 11th EMS Annual Meeting combined with the 10th ECAM Conference in Berlin in September 2011. At this occasion I gave a solicited talk in the AM3 session titled “Designing probabilistic forecast products from ensembles corresponding to customers’ requirements”, organized by Dr. Renate Hagedorn.

As a mathematician and statistician interested in various aspects of meteorology, as well as probabilistic forecasts and their use in various decision-making problems, it was very crucial and quite refreshing for me to see the importance that the European meteorological community places on these aspects. This feeling was supported by a large number of talks I attended where the decision-making problems that were described and discussed definitely called for the use of probabilistic forecasts and stochastic optimization approaches. This also inspired some of the more methodological aspects I am intending to concentrate on now, related to multivariate probabilistic forecasts and their verification. I really appreciated how the various contributors to the conference all brought in some of their original views and ideas to some of these practical problems which are of utmost importance to society, e.g. related to tourism, energy, transport, etc.

In parallel to enjoying presentations related to my very own field, the variety of sessions and talks at the conference made that I learned a lot about other topics of focus of the members of the European meteorological community, as well as regarding their direct collaboration with other meteorological institutes worldwide. I would like to cite the example of the direct collaboration between the Finnish and Peruvian meteorological institutes, which certainly showed how our scientific research and expertise is not intended to our own benefit, but also to transmitting, communicating and sharing our knowledge.

The event was well organized, and its limited sized allowed for optimal exchanges with other participants. The various social events contributed to good networking with other researchers and practitioners. Overall the very interesting feedback I got on my work and the good interaction with the other participants make that I clearly look forward to attending future editions of the EMS Annual Conference!

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