34th International Conference on Alpine Meteorology

The 34th International Conference on Alpine Meteorology (ICAM) took place in Reykjavík, Iceland from 18-24 June 2017. Special thanks go to the European Meteorological Society that supported my participation in this unique and awesome conference via the Young Scientist Travel Award.

Every two years the ICAM is held in one of its member countries. These are Austria, Croatia, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. This year, however, the ICAM was hosted for the first time by a non-member country - Iceland. With its steady increasing interest the ICAM can nowadays be seen as the European counterpart to the AMS Mountain Meteorology conferences. This was reflected in the high-quality contributions on all aspects of mountain meteorology and climatology of scientists from many European countries such as Austria, Germany, Switzerland, France, Slovenia, Croatia, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Norway, Poland, the United Kingdom, the hosting country Iceland, but also from others such as Canada, the United States, Argentina and South Korea.

About 90 interesting and diverse oral presentations were organized in 16 sessions. Additionally, 7 poster sessions with more than 60 posters were held during the coffee breaks. As all posters hung in the poster hall during the entire week, fruitful discussions were possible during all breaks even before the actual poster session. I like this kind of poster sessions during the coffee breaks most as it simplifies the meet and greet process. For me, this conference was very successful as I further had the opportunity of extensive discussions with several colleagues about our research.

Further special of this conference was that the organizing committee arranged an ice-breaker in the town hall of Reykjavík and moreover a reception at the residence of the president of Iceland. Shaking-hands with the president of Iceland, Gudni Th. Jóhannesson, was a unique and unforgettable experience. Also included in the conference was an afternoon-evening excursion to West-Iceland looking at mountains, hot springs and waterfalls. The beauty of the landscape was amazing, but also the chance of establishing personal contacts to ease future cooperation was excellent during this extensive social programme.

This combination of high-quality presentations with a perfectly organized social programme made the ICAM a first-rate conference that was not to be missed.

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