



Upfront

EMS Silver Medal 2009



Lennart Bengtsson

The 2009 EMS Silver Medal is awarded to Lennart Bengtsson for his outstanding leadership in the development of numerical weather prediction and climate research.

The Award Ceremony will be held on 30 September 2009 during the EMS Annual Meeting & ECAM in Toulouse, France.

Silver Medal Lecture: *Why is the climate warming so irregular?*

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New items on emetsoc.org

- ▶ **EMS Annual Report**
The EMS Annual Report 2008 has been published online at www.emetsoc.org
Printed copies are distributed to all EMS Members and are also available on request to ems-sec at met.fu-berlin.de.

Upcoming Meetings of EMS Members

- ▶ **10th Baku International Congress - Energy, Ecology, Economy**
23–25 September 2009
Baku, Azerbaijan
ieacademy.org/Congress/10th/10th-congress.html
- ▶ **Joint Meeting of RMetS and the EMS: Evaluating climate processes in West Africa: New perspectives from the African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis**
21 October 2009, London, UK
www.rmets.org/events/detail.php?ID=4349
Young Scientist travel awards are available for this meeting.
- ▶ **Session Programme of the EMS & ECAM 2009** is now available at meetings.copernicus.org/ems2009/programme

Submit an Award proposal or application before ...

- ▶ **17 July 09** for the **Outreach & Communication Award**
- ▶ **31 July 09** for the **TV Weather Forecast Award**
- ▶ **31 July 09** for the **EMS Broadcast Meteorologist Award**

- ▶ **31 July 09** for the **EMS Young Scientist Award**
- ▶ **3 September 09** for the **Young Scientist Travel Award** to attend the **Joint Meeting of RMetS and EMS**
All Announcements are at: emetsoc.org/awards/awards.php

Register before ...

- ▶ **20 July 09** for the **11th Plinius Conference on Mediterranean Storms**
7–11 September 2009, Barcelona
meetings.copernicus.org/plinius11
- ▶ **31 July 09** for the **2009 EUMETSAT Meteorological Satellite Conference**
21–25 September 2009, Bath, UK
www.mtooffice.gov.uk/conference/eumetsat
- ▶ **21 August 09** for the **EMS & ECAM 2009**
28 September–2 October 2009, Toulouse, France.
meetings.copernicus.org/ems2009
- ▶ **13 September 09** for the **5th European Conference on Severe Storms**,
12–16 October 2009, Landshut, Germany
www.essl.org/ECSS/2009
- ▶ **15 September 09** for the **2009 SOLAS Open Science Conference**,
16–19 November 2009, Barcelona
solas2009.confmanager.com
Abstract submission until 31 July
- ▶ **15 August 2008**
Apply for: **Master Programme on Natural Hazards Management** at ETH Zurich.
The course is designed for engineers, natural scientists and planners, wishing to understand processes relating to natural hazards, how to evaluate risk and how to ensure sustainable management of infrastructure and the environment.
<http://www.ibk.ethz.ch/fa/haz/>

News from EMS & the Membership

► New EMS Associate Member

The Department of Hydrology and Climatology, Vilnius University, was welcome as an Associate Member by the EMS Council.

The staff of the department consists of 12 scientific and teaching personnel and 120 students in bachelor, master and Ph.D. programmes. Vilnius University is the only institution in Lithuania training meteorologists.

"We expect to get operative and comprehensive information about meteorological and hydrological scientific events and ongoing researches. Also we expect to be more actively involved in meteorological information and data exchange within Europe, to get abatement in conference fees organized or co-organized by EMS, to have easier access to scientific and technical literature (...)."

► ECMWF

Prof. Erland Källén started his new position as Head of Research at ECMWF on 6 July 2009.

► SMHI

On June 1, 2009, Lena Häll Eriksson, took over as Head of SMHI, Sweden.

► Icelandic Meteorological Society



Guðrún Nína Petersen

Dr Guðrún Nína Petersen became President of the Icelandic Meteorological Society on 13 February 2009. During the last five years she has worked in the UK, first at the University of Reading and then at the University of East Anglia. Her interests are mainly mountain meteorology, Arctic weather, air-sea interaction and predictability of weather. Since December 2008 she has worked at the Icelandic Meteorological Office.

► Romanian Meteorological Society



Ion Draghici

Dr Ion Draghici is the new President of the Romanian Meteorological Society. From 1985 to 1992 he was the Director of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Institute in Romania. In 1992 he joined the WMO Secretariat as Programme Officer; later he was promoted to Chief of the Training Division, and since 2005 till his retirement in September 2007 he was the Director of the Education and Training Programme of WMO.

► Serbian Meteorological Society

The new President of the Serbian Meteorological Society (MDS) is Dragan Radovanovic. He works at the "Serbia and Montenegro Air Traffic Services Agency".

Key activities of MDS include

- organisation of events on World Meteorological Day.
- organisation of a lecture series by eminent MDS members conducting research at US universities, NOAA, WMO or ECMWF.
- contributions to discussions on legal changes for meteorological services in Serbia.

► Israel Meteorological Society



Noah Wolfson

In March 2009, Dr Noah Wolfson was elected as President of the Israel Meteorological Society (IMS). He is Co-Owner of Meteo-Tech Meteorological Services Ltd., Associate Professor at Tel-Aviv University in Geophysics with the the focus on statistics in meteorology, and Associate Researcher at NASA Goddard

Space Flight Center, focusing on climate forecasting.

His main ambition for the IMS is to develop the society into a centre of excellence in science with increased membership, in particular among young students.

► Exhibition booth of EMS Member Societies at the EMS & ECAM in Toulouse

All EMS Member Societies will have the opportunity to display material about their activities during the EMS Annual Meeting:

visit Booth No.6.

Contact: Nathalie Cochon, SMF
meetings.copernicus.org/ems2009/exhibition/list_of_exhibitors.html.

► Portuguese-Spanish Meeting on Meteorology

6th Symposium on Meteorology and Geophysics of APMG
10th Portuguese-Spanish Meeting on Meteorology



Natural Disasters
A Challenge for Humanity

From 16 to 18 March 2009, the Portuguese Meteorological and Geophysical Association (APMG) together with the Spanish Meteorological Association (AME) held a meeting in Aldeia dos Capuchos. The symposium addressed "Natural Disasters - A Challenge for Humanity" and formed part of the activities of the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE).

The event was attended by 143 professionals and students, coming from Portugal, Brazil, Macao-China and Spain.

The symposium encompassed 88 oral and 38 posters presentations on a number of different fields of Meteorology, Geophysics and related Sciences. Following the presentations, there was a plenary discussion focused on natural disasters. The importance of the theme and the quality of the contributions resulted in a high participation.

The social programme included a reception offered by the Almada Municipality at the XVIth century monastery of Capuchos and a lively dinner that gathered more than one hundred participants and companions.

Questionnaire to EMS Member organisations

In April the Policy Advisory and Development Group (PADG) conducted an online survey with the aim of seeking input from Member Societies and Associate Members about their needs and requirements with respect to the EMS work, and how they perceive and assess the accomplishments of the EMS.

43 responses were received, 14 of these from Associate Members. A first evaluation shows the following.

- **Communication of information about EMS activities:** EMS Members feel well informed about EMS activities, but it is not clear whether individual members are interested in EMS activities. The EMS website and online newsletter provide useful information, but they are hardly used to keep their membership informed about EMS activities.
- **Communication of information between Members:** There is a strong deficit in information available about other EMS Members. At the same time there is a strong request for more information about Members' activities. High interest was expressed in information on best practices in publication.
- **Conferences:** About 60% of Members organise meetings and conferences and about 35% would appreciate support in their organisation or to develop a European dimension. The Committee on Meetings is looking into the detailed proposals and suggestions and will contact Members to discuss how specific support can be arranged.

- **Associate Members:** 75% feel a stronger involvement of Associate Members in the EMS activities would be of benefit. Also 75% are against a change in the institutional distinction between Member Societies and Associate Members, among these most of the Associate Members. Three Associate Members would welcome a progressive weakening of the distinction.
- **Benefit from EMS Membership:** A majority feels that they benefit from EMS Membership
- **Collective opinion:** More than 50% have more or less strong views that the EMS should try to develop a collective opinion on matters concerning meteorology and climatology.

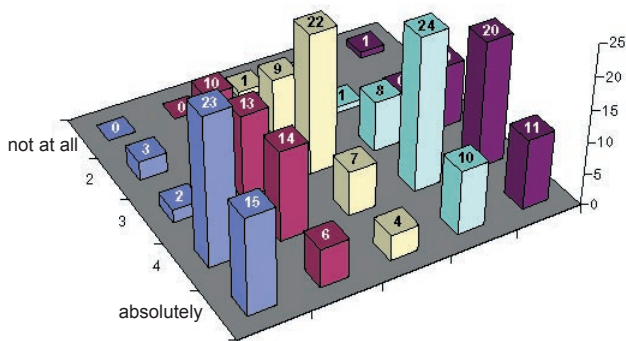
The PADG is currently looking in more detail at what can be learnt from the feedback and identifying the first steps needed to address the most urgent issues. However, the most obvious challenge is to meet the objective that apparently was established at the beginning of the formation of the EMS network: to be informed about activities of meteorologists in other European countries and on a European level. This is not a one-way street, and we ask all of you to provide information on your activities to the EMS Office on a regular basis, so it can be disseminated within the community.

We thank all that have contributed to the survey!

PADG, June 2009.

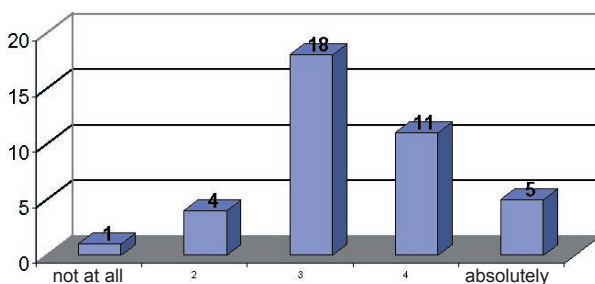
Communication I

- Is the ems-message providing you with useful information?
- Is the EMS website providing you with the information you require?
- Are members of your organisation interested in EMS activities?
- Are members of your organisation kept informed?
- Are you receiving sufficient information about EMS?



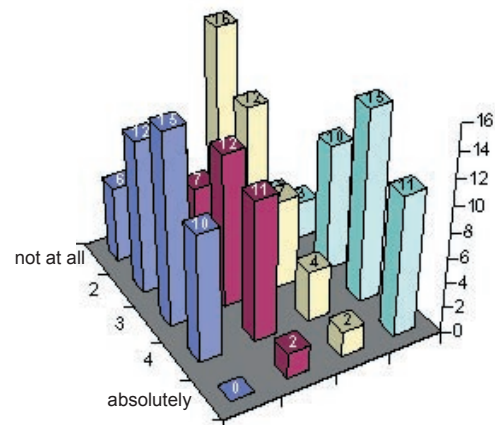
Benefit from the EMS

- As a Member Society or Associate Member do you benefit from EMS?



Communication II

- Are you receiving sufficient information about activities of other Member Societies and Associate Members?
- Do you think the *forum* is relevant/interesting for or members of your organisation?
- Are you using the ems-message to inform other Member organisations about your activities?
- Do you find it of value to be provided with information about best publication practices and new developments in publications of meteorological material?



► **GOCE launch**

ESA's gravity mission GOCE (Gravity field and steady-state Ocean Circulation Explorer) has achieved a first in the history of satellite technology. The sophisticated electric propulsion system has shown that it is able to keep the satellite completely free from drag as it cuts through the remnants of Earth's atmosphere – paving the way for the best gravity data ever.

Launched on 17 March and currently progressing through the commissioning phase, GOCE is set to measure Earth's gravity field with unprecedented accuracy. However, this means that the satellite has to orbit the Earth as low as possible where the gravitational signal is stronger, but also where the fringes of the atmosphere remain. More information and to follow the ground track of GOCE go to www.esa.int/SPECIALS/GOCE/SEMGUV0OWUF_0.html

► **German Weather Service supports weather forecast in Mozambique**

Four meteorologists from Mozambique are currently trained by DWD staff in Offenbach in the usage of the regional high-resolution forecast model. In August the model will be installed at the National Meteorological Service of Mozambique (INAM - Instituto Nacional de Meteorologia) and at the University of Maputo by DWD staff.

The aim is to improve weather prediction and thus help to mitigate the negative impacts of weather hazards. More timely and accurate warning will help people to be evacuated much faster and decrease the loss of property and food.

The training is organised as a joint development project with the German Development Agency, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) and the German Ministry for Economic Collaboration and Development. Within the project, DWD provides the forecast model at no cost and transfers boundary condition data twice a day through the Internet.

► **Do you want to make a difference?**

In 2008 the British Council launched the European element of its global climate programme: Challenge Europe. The project is a three-year programme that aims to make a lasting impact on the climate change debate, and accelerate the change to a Low Carbon Future by engaging young people who will bear the full consequences of climate change.

In each of the participating countries 15–20 young people are recruited to become Climate Advocates. In exchange for the chance to participate in the programme, Climate Advocates are asked to commit approximately 200 hours of their time during the first year.

In Norway, for example, the Climate Advocates refined many ideas and developed independent projects on climate friendly buildings and agriculture.

For more information about the Advocates and their projects see challengeeurope.britishcouncil.org

► **German Climate Service Center opens**

A Climate Service Centre (CSC), established as a national platform for information and advice for policy, science and economy, was formally opened on 2 July 2009.

The centre is located in Hamburg and funded by the German Ministry for Education and Research for the first five years. The aim of the centre is to collect existing knowledge on climate change and its impacts, and thus make it more readily usable for different societal sectors and individuals.

The scientific director of the CSC will be Guy Brasseur, Associate Director of NCAR in Boulder, Colorado, USA, and former director of MPI for Meteorology in Hamburg. www.gkss.de/science_and_industry/klimaberatung/csc

► **European Research Area**

A seminar on "How can forward looking activities support the European Research Area (ERA)?", organised by the EC, was held on 2 June 2009 in Brussels.

In particular opportunities for Joint Programming of Member States were discussed.

All presentations, including a summary (and pictures) from the seminar, are available at: http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/events-01_en.html

► **India is no longer a radiosonde desert**

For many years, Indian radiosondes have generally been black-listed in the ECMWF operational data assimilation because of their inconsistency and poor overall quality. The Indian Meteorological Department has now begun a programme to update its radiosonde network (using the French Modem MK2K GPSonde).

Five sites were upgraded in March-April and ECMWF operational monitoring shows that they all provide good quality soundings. On 12 May, these five sites were removed from the blacklist and their data assimilated in the operational system. Five more sites were upgraded in May and assimilated from 12 June.

The whole upgrade of the Indian upper-air network will be finalised by mid-2010. For all meteorologists who have always seen India as a radiosonde desert, this is very good news.

► **ERA-Interim is now available**

The new ECMWF reanalysis, ERA-Interim, is now available after completing 20 years of reanalysis from 1989 to 2008. The production involved the use of more than 29 billion meteorological observations, and generated 60 terabytes of reanalysis products.

The ERA-Interim reanalysis is extended forward in near-real time, using the same version of the ECMWF model IFS, to maintain a consistent production. More information can be found on the ECMWF website, in particular in several articles of the ECMWF Newsletter. www.ecmwf.int

A large subset of the reanalysis is downloadable from the ECMWF Data Server: data.ecmwf.int/data

Publications

► A Proposal for a Copenhagen Agreement by Members of the NGO Community

Climate change experts from non-governmental organisations (i.e. WWF, David Suzuki Foundation, Greenpeace, Germanwatch, IndyACT – the League of Independent Activists, and the National Ecological Centre of Ukraine) have published their blueprint for a legally binding Copenhagen agreement on 8 June 2009.

The 140-page “Copenhagen Climate Treaty - Version 1.0”, which is now distributed to negotiators from 192 states, was developed over the course of one year. It contains a full legal text covering all the main elements needed to provide the world with a fair and ambitious agreement that keeps climate change impacts below the unacceptable risk levels identified by most scientists.

www.germanwatch.org/treaty

► EMS8 & ECAC7 papers

Contributions to the EMS8 & ECAC7 2008 in Amsterdam are now published in *Advances in Science and Research*:

www.adv-sci-res.net/volumes.html

Awards

► Young Scientist Travel Awards for Željko Večenaj, Croatia, and Delia Arnold, Spain.

Both YSTAs were given for the participation in the 30th International Conference on Alpine Meteorology (ICAM), that was held in Rastatt, Germany, 11–15 May 2009.

Željko: “(...) I have gathered sufficient amount of information to start modelling with WRF on my own which would be the next step in my research. Also, it was a great opportunity to talk to senior scientists, to bring them problems related to issues that one is dealing with and to listen their advice and suggestions.”

Željko Večenaj received the YSTA for his contribution: “Near-surface turbulence in a bora event.”

Delia: “(...) Within the existing topics, three have been of special interest in my current and future research: boundary layer processes, dynamics and numerical weather prediction. Boundary layer section has included contributions with detailed studies on the thermally driven flows and cold pools, mainly using numerical modelling tools. This is closely related to part of my current research, which focuses on high resolution modelling in alpine valleys.”

Delia Arnold received the YSTA for her contribution “High resolution modelling of mountain and valley stations and its applications to complex dispersion conditions.”

Their fuller reports will become available at www.emetsoc.org.

Meetings

- **WMO World Climate Conference**
31 August–4 September 2009
Geneva, Switzerland
www.wmo.int/wcc3
- **2nd IASI International Conference**
25–29 January 2010,
Annecy, France.
smc.cnes.fr/IASI/A_conference.htm
- **Euroscience Open Forum: Passion for Science**
2–7 July 2010, Torino, Italy
www.esof2010.org
- **10th EMS Annual Meeting & 8th European Conference on Applied Climatology (ECAC)**
13–17 September 2010, Zurich, Switzerland.
- **DACH2010: Deutsch-Österreichisch-Schweizerische Meteorologentagung**
20–24 September 2010,
Bonn/Köln, Germany.

Agenda

- **21st EMS Council**
27 September 2009, 9:30h,
CIC, Toulouse, France.
- **11th EMS General Assembly**
27 September 2009, 15:00h,
CIC, Toulouse, France.
- **Deadline for submissions to the ems-message No. 6:**
25 August 2009.