



## EMS Silver Medalist 2012:

### Tim Palmer

The European Meteorological Society (EMS) has chosen Prof. Tim Palmer as Laureate of the EMS Silver Medal 2012, the most prestigious of the EMS awards. He is honoured for his pioneering work on predictability of weather



and climate and for his outstanding skills and commitment in communicating the underlying concepts to non-specialists

and to the general public in Europe and beyond.

Tim Palmer's work has been instrumental for current understanding of climate dynamics and weather and climate predictability. His research spans a wide variety of areas, from the theoretical to the practical, on issues related to the predictability and dynamics of weather and climate. On the theoretical side, he is especially interested in aspects of the climate system which exhibit nonlinear behaviour, for example where atmospheric processes on different space and time scales interact. This has led him to try to recast the basic equations for climate prediction as stochastic rather than deterministic.

His outstanding and worldwide-recognised research on weather and climate predictability and the use of ensemble forecasting have had a significant impact and instigated the development of a wide

range of new operational products across Europe. Many of these products are now widely and regularly used as a basis for providing weather warnings for the protection of life and property. Few individuals have had such a direct impact on the meteorological infrastructure and its ability to provide significant improvements in forecasts available to European citizens.

Tim Palmer, being an exceptional and outstanding scientist, has also made tremendous contributions to enhance public understanding. His ability to explain complex concepts of meteorology, weather and climate prediction to non-specialists and the general public is fascinating and stays in the memory of everyone who has had the chance to listen to any of his presentations. He shows a dedication to the communication of scientific issues and debates that is truly admirable.

>> read more at [www.emetsoc.org/news-room/ems-news](http://www.emetsoc.org/news-room/ems-news)

The Silver Medal ceremony, which includes a Silver Medal Lecture by the Laureate, will be held during the EMS&ECAC in Łódź, Poland.

### **Silver Medal Lecture: Towards the Probabilistic Earth-System Simulator: A Vision for the Future of Weather and Climate Prediction.**

Wednesday  
12 September 2012  
13:30



## 12th EMS & 9th ECAC

10-14 September 2012  
Łódź, Poland

[ems2012.eu](http://ems2012.eu)

- Pre-registration until: **10 August**
  - Session programme online
  - app for mobile devices will become available in September
- More details see page 2 >>>

### New items on the website

- ▶ booklet describing the top ten photos from the EPM competition [www.emetsoc.org](http://www.emetsoc.org)
- ▶ interview with EMS President [www.emetsoc.org/members-activities/ems-associate-members](http://www.emetsoc.org/members-activities/ems-associate-members)
- ▶ check out reports of YSTA recipients [www.emetsoc.org/awards/travel-awards-ystas](http://www.emetsoc.org/awards/travel-awards-ystas)
- ▶ Join EMS on facebook [www.facebook.com/EuropeanMetSociety](http://www.facebook.com/EuropeanMetSociety)

### Agenda

- ▶ **14th EMS General Assembly and 27th EMS Council**  
9 September 2012, Łódź
- ▶ **SAF Climate Monitoring Workshop**  
9 September 2012, Łódź

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#### IMPRINT

The *ems-message* is published by the European Meteorological Society (EMS e.V.) [www.emetsoc.org](http://www.emetsoc.org)

## EMS &amp; ECAC



[www.ems2012.eu](http://www.ems2012.eu)

[www.ems2012.eu/  
special\\_events/  
ecac\\_plenary\\_discussion.html](http://www.ems2012.eu/special_events/ecac_plenary_discussion.html)

[www.ems2012.eu/  
registration.html](http://www.ems2012.eu/registration.html)

[www.ems2012.eu/  
conference\\_dinner.html](http://www.ems2012.eu/conference_dinner.html)

## 12th EMS Annual Meeting & 9th European Conference on Applied Climatology 10–14 September 2012, Łódź, Poland

Focal theme: **European Climate Services Capabilities  
– user needs and communication with stakeholders.**

450 papers have been submitted for the 12th EMS & 9th ECAC. The session programme is available at [www.ems2012.eu/programme](http://www.ems2012.eu/programme).

An app with the programme (for mobile devices) will become available shortly before the conference. Keep checking the website.

The Opening Session will include strategic lectures on different aspects of the conference theme:

**Filipe Lúcio**, Head Global Framework for Climate Services Office, WMO  
*Global Framework for Climate Services: towards improved decision-making in climate sensitive sector*

**Reinhard Schulte-Braucks**, Head GMES Bureau, EC Enterprise and Industry DG  
*The European Union's activities in the area of climate change*

**Michael Rast**, Head Science Strategy, Coordination and Planning Office, ESA  
*Earth Observation in Support of Climate Services*

**Jörg Schulz**, Meteorological Operations Division, EUMETSAT  
*Sustained Climate Monitoring for Climate Services: EUMETSAT's perspective*

**Freja Vamborg**, Project Manager MiKlip project, MPI Hamburg  
*Decadal climate predictions for climate services*

**Roberto Buizza**, Head Predictability Division, ECMWF  
*Seasonal prediction: opportunities and challenges*

An **ECAC Plenary Session on Communication on climate change** will focus on various initiatives for assessing differences in views between mainstream scientists and 'climate skeptics', for publishing rebuttals in the peer review literature, and for organising climate dialogues and debates. Four presentations by experts will be followed by a panel discussion on options and initiatives to inform policy makers and the general public about the scientific findings as opposed to and triggered by the societal debate dominated by 'climate skeptics'. More information is available online.

### Registration rates 2012

Deadline for pre-registration is **10 August 2012**.

Categories	Pre-Registration		On-Site Registration	
	More than 1-Day		More than 1-Day	1-Day Only
<b>Member 2012</b> <sup>(1)</sup>	€340	€370	€370	€210
<b>Non Member</b>	€370	€400	€400	€210
<b>Student</b>	€160	€190	€190	€210

(1) Participants having paid their 2012 annual membership fee to AMS, ESSL or any of the Member Societies of the EMS, and staff of EMS Associate Members. Please check the EMS website to find out whether your organisation belongs to the EMS.

### Social Programme

► Icebreaker Reception Monday 19:00 - 21:00  
Foyer & Exhibition area  
*Sponsored by the Harry Otten Foundation*

► Conference Dinner Wednesday 19:00 - 22:00  
at *andel's Hotel*

Pre-registration for the conference dinner is obligatory and you are advised to register as early as possible to secure a place.

**Ticket price: €55.** More information on the menu and registration available online.



## The Netherlands Nederlandse Vereniging ter bevordering van de Meteorologie (NVBM) The year 2011 at NVBM

### **New name of the society**

The Nederlandse Vereniging van Beroepsmeteorologen (Dutch Society for Professional Meteorologists) has changed its name to better reflect its aims and activities: the new name is Nederlandse Vereniging ter bevordering van de Meteorologie (NVBM) - Dutch Society for the Promotion of Meteorology.

Many colleagues working in the climate or meteorology research area perceived the society as one only relevant for forecasters - which it is not. In order to open the society and make it attractive for professionals in meteorology and climatology, a new name and new statutes were adopted in spring 2011.

On 22 June NVBM went on an excursion to ESA/ESTEC in Noordwijk and to Leids Universitair Medisch Centrum. At ESTEC the latest news about the satellites that are being developed were presented, while at Leids Universitair Medisch Centrum the latest research on the relationship between pollen and meteorology was discussed.

On the 4th of November NVBM held a successful symposium on the use of probabilistic forecasts which had invited speakers from KNMI, Meteo Consult, the Joint Meteorology Group from the Dutch Ministry of Defence and a Dutch TV Journal.

2011 saw the twentieth anniversary of NVBM. To mark this milestone, two NVBM Awards were presented. The NVBM Award for Operational Meteorology went to Kees Floor for his important contribution to the development of operational meteorology. The NVBM Award for Meteorological Research was presented to Geert-Jan van Oldenburgh for his contributions to climate research over the past decade. Both awardees gave a presentation on their work during the autumn symposium and contributed interesting articles to *Meteorologica*, the NVBM journal.

Each year NVBM funds one student award, which covers registration for the EMS Annual Meeting. In 2011 the award was given to Miranda Braam for her presentation on boundary layer modelling Session ASI3 (see [meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EMS2011/oral\\_programme/8052](http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EMS2011/oral_programme/8052)).

A mini-symposium, consisting of two presentations, was held at the recent NVBM Annual Meeting. The first presentation was on risk management of hydro/meteorological disasters and the second presentation was on "The potentials of EC Earth: developing a European Earth System model based on ECMWF modelling systems". This Annual Meeting was the last one that Heleen ter Pelkwijk organised as the NVBM Secretary, a position she has held with great enthusiasm for 12 years, and for Boudewijn Hulsman as Chairman. Janneke Ettema took over as NVBM Secretary and Albert Klein Tank is the new Chairman.

### **FY Republic of Macedonia MeteoMak**

#### **BALWOIS conference - a short report**

The Fifth International Scientific Conference BALWOIS was held in Ohrid in the FY Republic of Macedonia from 28 May to 2 June under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of Macedonia. The conference was supported by the following organisations: the International Association of Water Resources (IWRA), AEK, BARON Services, BENTLEY, BETAAnalytic, CAMPBELL, JINYANG, KISTERS, SONTEK, ZIKOL and ELEM.

BALWOIS 2012 was organised by the Balkan Institute for Water and Environment - IB2E, the Faculty of Civil Engineering at Sts. Cyril and Methodius University - Skopje, the Hydrometeorological Service of Macedonia and the Macedonian Association of Meteorology, METEO MAK.

The EMS provided travel support to Meltem Celem, a young scientist from Turkey. A report by Meltem is available at [www.emetsoc.org/awards/travel-awards-ystas](http://www.emetsoc.org/awards/travel-awards-ystas).

340 scientists, engineers, managers, legislators, NGO representatives and policy makers from 37 different countries involved in water, climate and environment related matters attended the meeting.

## EMS Members

[www.emetsoc.org/  
members-activities/  
ems-member-societies/  
nvbm](http://www.emetsoc.org/members-activities/ems-member-societies/nvbm)

[www.nvbm.nl/  
Bestuur%20NVBM/BestuurNVBM.html](http://www.nvbm.nl/Bestuur%20NVBM/BestuurNVBM.html)

[www.emetsoc.org/  
members-activities/  
ems-member-societies/  
meteomak](http://www.emetsoc.org/members-activities/ems-member-societies/meteomak)



*Meltem Celem receiving the YST Award certificate from M. Morell*

## EMS Members

[www.balwois.com/2012](http://www.balwois.com/2012)

[www.irishmetsociety.org/ims-conference-2012-material](http://www.irishmetsociety.org/ims-conference-2012-material)



During the poster session

## Meetings

[rmets.org/events/detail.php?ID=4710](http://rmets.org/events/detail.php?ID=4710)

[www.daca-13.org](http://www.daca-13.org)

During the week, 170 oral presentations and 140 posters were presented on topics such as climate and hydrology, water, environment and human activities, water related risks, integrated water resources management, ecohydrology & hydrobiology and computing and technologies in water sector. In addition three workshops were held, as well as special events such as art painting for children, traditional Ohrid music evening and a conference dinner during which a traditional Macedonian dance was performed.

### Ireland Irish Meteorological Society

#### News

Dublin is the European City of Science for 2012 and the Irish Met Society's conference on "The Science of Weather Forecasting" was chosen as one of 160 events to receive funding under this programme.

The conference was held on 24 March in the National Botanic Gardens, Dublin, and consisted of eight short talks on the history of clouds, a tale from a survivor of an Air France air accident, satellite meteorology, weather radar, how climate change affects plants, numerical weather prediction, weather forecasting and communicating the weather. Because of the location, the capacity crowd of 200 people were also treated to a wonderful tour of the Botanic Gardens during the lunch break. As well as the lectures and tour, IMS awarded honorary life memberships to Peter Lynch and Jim Hamilton (see *ems-message* no.15), and a book on the history of the first 10 years of the Irish Met Service, *Met Éireann*, written by Tom Keane, was also launched at the event (see page 6 for further details).

All of the lectures were recorded and the lecture slides, podcasts, videos and photos are gradually being added to the website of the IMS.

### Meeting on Renewables and the Future of Energy Meteorology

13.30 Wednesday, 17th October 2012

Physics Lecture Theatre, Imperial College London, UK.

Contact: [marcia.spencer@rmets.org](mailto:marcia.spencer@rmets.org)

Energy systems are changing rapidly all over the world. In the UK and throughout Europe, nations are increasingly depending on renewable electricity technologies as they strive to transform their economies towards securer energy supplies and reduced carbon use. Many renewable sources are, however, intermittent and inherently sensitive to weather, suggesting a growing need to accurately understand and model the impacts of weather and climate on the resulting system. This meeting brings together a panel of leading experts to discuss the challenges that face the power systems of the UK and Europe in the context of the opportunities and questions it poses for the meteorological community.

The meeting will include a poster session with a focus on the renewable energy sector and its links to meteorology. To be considered for the poster session, please **email a brief abstract of no more than 200-300 words to [marcia.spencer@rmets.org](mailto:marcia.spencer@rmets.org) by 5pm 21 Sept 2012** using the downloadable abstract submission form.

### Davos Atmosphere and Cryosphere Assembly 2013

Air, Ice & Process Interactions - An IUGG (IAMAS & IACS) Event

8 – 12 July 2013, Davos, Switzerland

The IAMAS & IACS associations of the IUGG invite the international scientific community to the DACA-13 conference in the Swiss Alps to discuss latest developments in atmospheric and cryospheric research. With its overall theme "**Air, Ice & Process Interactions**", DACA-13 recognizes that many key challenges concerning global environmental change lie at the interface of these disciplines. Therefore, particular attention will be devoted to the interaction between these vulnerable components – in parallel to a range of more discipline-oriented sessions covering the broad spectrum of the atmospheric and cryospheric sciences. Central elements of the conference programme will be keynote presentations by world-leading experts and extended poster sessions. In addition, a range of scientific excursions and trips into the fascinating alpine environment will be offered.



## EUMETSAT MSG-3 successfully launched

At 23:36:07 CEST (18:36:07 Kourou time) on 5 July MSG-3 was successfully launched from Kourou, Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana, by the Ariane-5 launcher. It replaces the ageing Meteosat-8 and secures the continuity of the operational services from its geostationary orbit. Meteosat covers the European and African continents and parts of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans where tropical cyclones develop. The geostationary Meteosat satellites also provide unique observational input to Numerical Weather Prediction models, complementing those delivered by the polar-orbiting Metop satellites, and have already accumulated more than 30 years of climate data records.

### Preparing MSG-3 for operational service

The MSG-3 satellite will be brought to its final geostationary orbit by the ESA Space Operations Centre which performs the so-called Launch and Early Orbit Phase operations on behalf of EUMETSAT. About ten days after the launch, the spacecraft is handed over to the EUMETSAT operations team.

After that the commissioning period will begin. It consists of a two-month satellite check out and assessment phase, followed by a four-month imaging and product testing phase, including calibration and validation activities. The release of the first image, generated by the SEVIRI imager on board MSG-3, will be an important milestone and is expected to occur in the second week of August.

## ESSL: Opening Ceremony Research and Training Centre

The European Severe Storms Laboratory officially opened its Research and Training Centre in Wiener Neustadt in Austria on 21 June 2012.

On behalf of the EMS, former EMS President and current President of the Austrian Meteorological Society, Fritz Neuwirth, gave a short address at the Grand Opening. Other addresses were given by Dimitar Ivanov, Chief of the WMO Regional Office for Europe, Bernhard Müller, the mayor of Wiener Neustadt, Michael Staudinger, Director of the ZAMG, Klaus Schneeberger, member of the provincial parliament of Lower Austria and Pieter Groenemeijer, the Director of ESSL. They celebrated this event with ESSL staff and members and participants of the ongoing ESSL Testbed. The ESSL Testbed is the most prominent ESSL activity carried out in Wiener Neustadt, while other activities range from classical training courses to scientific projects.

### The Testbed in Brief

A growing range of tools is steadily becoming available for weather forecasters as a basis for their forecasts and warnings. These are, however, not always used optimally, because of a lack of interaction between developers and the forecasters. Additionally, there is a lack of international exchange of "best practices" on forecasting extreme weather events. Therefore, the ESSL Testbed will bring together forecasters and developers from around the world. In a quasi-operational setting, with a focus on severe weather, developers present and explain their tools, forecasters give feedback, and the tools are put to the test. The core activity of the Testbed is the preparation of experimental severe weather forecasts.

The ESSL Testbed is carried out in cooperation with the Austrian National Weather Service, ZAMG, which provides the necessary real-time data flow to the ESSL Research and Training Centre during the Testbed weeks. Daily briefings and lectures are shared with online participants through teleconferencing made possible by EUMETCAL.

Products evaluated at the first ESSL Testbed included ECMWF's Extreme Forecast Index and other products from the ECMWF Ensemble Prediction System, as well as visualisations from DWD's high-resolution COSMO-DE-EPS ensemble system. In addition, participants tested several satellite-based products to detect convective activity. EUMETSAT and WMO supported the participation of forecasters and researchers from eastern and south-eastern Europe. More information on these products and the activities can be found online; the Operations Plan can also be downloaded.

People from all over Europe, stretching from Spain to Finland and Great Britain to Turkey

## Community

[www.essl.org](http://www.essl.org)



A. Holzer, D. Ivanov, K. Schneeberger,  
B. Müller, F. Neuwirth, P. Groenemeijer,  
M. Staudinger

[www.essl.org/testbed](http://www.essl.org/testbed)



## Books



[www.irishmetsociety.org/tom-keanes-book](http://www.irishmetsociety.org/tom-keanes-book)



Tom Keane (left), author of the book on the history of the first 10 years of Met Éireann, along with his colleague Colm Faherty.

participated in the 2012 ESSL Testbed. Additionally, facilitators from the Hazardous Weather Testbed in Norman, Oklahoma, participated and shared their experiences and insights.

ESSL welcomes participants and testbed products from interested weather services and institutions for the next Testbed, planned to start in June 2013. The feedback from developers and forecasters involved with the first ESSL Testbed has been very positive.

### ***Newly published book on the history of the first 10 years of the Irish Met Service “Establishment of the Meteorological Service in Ireland – the Foynes years 1936 – 1945” by Tom Keane.***

The literature of the Flying Boat Museum at Foynes, Ireland, claims that Foynes was ‘The Centre of the Aviation World 1939-1945’. While this may be somewhat of a hyperbole, yet due to a combination of circumstances ‘The Foynes Era’ deserves a unique place in the history of aviation and that of aviation meteorology.

A further milestone in the celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of the foundation of the Irish Meteorological Service (now Met Éireann) was the launch at the last Met Society Conference of a new book entitled: ‘Establishment of the Meteorological Service in Ireland – the Foynes years 1936 – 1945’. This book, by retired Meteorologist Tom Keane, describes events in the lead up to the formation of the Irish Meteorological Service in 1936 and the first ten years of operations in large measure devoted to the flying boat era at Foynes.

After the transfer of the existing meteorological network to Irish control, the British authorities provided the initial expertise at Foynes. The British staff were replaced with the recruitment of professional and assistant staff sourced in Ireland, Great Britain and ‘refugee’ meteorologists from war torn Europe.

The pioneering trial flights out of Foynes have gone down in the annals of history. Subsequently during war time years, the major airlines transiting Foynes were *British Overseas Airways Corporation* later joined by *Pan American Airways* and *American Export Airlines*.

The functions of the Service expanded in other ways - a Climatological Division was established along modern lines and a strong research ethos was developed among forecasters. During World War II years Clerical Officers were seconded from the General Civil Service to encipher weather messages exchanged between landing bases and aircraft. Staff numbers in the Service had increased to 126 by 1945.

The Irish Service overcame many difficulties caused by the onset of World War II with its attendant impacts on a neutral country, limitations in the reception of weather data and insufficient manpower to meet the large increase in flights transiting Foynes due to war restrictions on other routes. Office demands and Social aspects of life in Foynes became a source of discontent to staff as traffic through Foynes rapidly built up.

Yet the Service succeeded in attaining a well-deserved reputation by providing a professional service to aviation at the Shannon (Foynes and Rineanna) and Dublin airports, to Air Defence and at the same time serving, as best it could, other demands of the Irish state.

This book of 200 pages inclusive of preliminary and photographic pages, celebrates those fascinating early years and pioneering Irish meteorologists in a readily readable manner. Very reasonably priced at €15 (includes packaging and postage) the Irish Met Society highly recommends this publication to visitors to its website.

**About the Author.** Tom Keane served in the Meteorological Service and at many meteorological stations over a long career becoming Senior Meteorologist and Head of Research and Applications in Met Éireann. His fascination for the era stemmed from the time in the late 1970s he was first given access to the Service’s ‘Secret Files’ of the WW II years. In recent years a more complete picture has emerged by from additional sources in the literature and the various archives both in Ireland and in the UK.

**Coming soon ...****The Weather Observer's Handbook by Stephen Burt**

The Weather Observer's Handbook provides a comprehensive, practical and independent guide to all aspects of making weather observations. Automatic weather stations today form the mainstay of both amateur and professional weather observing networks around the world and yet – prior to this book – there existed no independent guide to their selection and use. Traditional and modern weather instruments are covered, including how best to choose and to site a weather station, how to get the best out of your equipment, how to store and analyse your records and how to share your observations with other people and across the Internet. From amateur observers looking for help in choosing their first weather instruments on a tight budget to professional observers looking for a comprehensive and up-to-date guide covering World Meteorological Organization recommendations on observing methods and practices, all will welcome this handbook.

**Content**

*Part I. The Basics:* 1. Why measure the weather? A history of meteorological observations; 2. Choosing a weather station; 3. Buying a weather station: site and exposure.

*Part II. Measuring the Weather:* 4. Measuring the temperature of the air; 5. Measuring precipitation; 6. Measuring atmospheric pressure; 7. Measuring humidity; 8. Measuring wind speed and direction; 9. Measuring grass and earth temperature; 10. Measuring sunshine and solar radiation; 11. Observing hours and time standards; 12. Data loggers and AWS software; 13. Non-instrumental weather observing; 14. Calibration; 15. Metadata – what is it, and why is it important?; *Part III. Making the Most of your Observations:* 16. Collecting and storing data; 17. Making sense of the data avalanche; 18. Sharing your observations; 19. Summary and getting started.

**About the author**

Stephen Burt has a professional background in physics, meteorology and climatology, information technology and marketing. He is a Fellow of the UK's Royal Meteorological Society and is also a member of both the American Meteorological Society and the Irish Meteorological Society. He has run his own meteorological observatory for more than 40 years. After almost 10 years with the UK Met Office he took up a business career within the computer industry, successfully managing international marketing roles for several of the world's largest high-technology firms.

The book will be published in August by Cambridge University Press.

Hardback £60.00, Paperback £27.99

More details of the book can be found at [www.measuringtheweather.com](http://www.measuringtheweather.com)

**Weather Permitting - Television programme on 50 years of weather forecasting aired on Irish television on 22 July is now available online**

The documentary examines the relationship people have with Ireland's weather and its TV forecasters who have been broadcasting on RTÉ Television for 50 years. The programme goes through the history of weather forecasting, with Gerald Fleming, Irish meteorologist and weather presenter and currently Head of Forecasting in Met Éireann, leading through the programme.

The board of the Irish Meteorological Society were involved in the research element of the programme.

**Books**

[www.measuringtheweather.com](http://www.measuringtheweather.com)

**TV programme**

[www.rte.ie/player/#!v=10038541](http://www.rte.ie/player/#!v=10038541)