

ems-message

EMS & ECAC 2012

The 12th EMS Annual Meeting and 9th ECAC were held in Łódź, Poland, in September and attended by 391 people from 42 countries. The venue, the Faculty of Management of the University of Łódź, provided an ideal setting and the feedback suggests participants were satisfied with the venue, the conference programme – scientific and social – and the organisation. Many participants were pleasantly surprised to discover Łódź and its vibrant university.

Scientists, forecasters and service providers from all sectors of climatology, meteorology and related disciplines met in Łódź to present and discuss the latest developments in their fields.

With the conference theme *European Climate Services Capabilities – user needs and communication with stakeholders*, it was recognised that many climate services in Europe are increasingly



transboundary in character. International collaboration is needed to develop and provide services on a European scale or to serve users at country level where consistency with neighbouring countries is required.

The Opening Session highlighted the challenges and achievements of climate services in Europe through strategic lectures from WMO, ESA, EUMETSAT, the EC, the MiKlip project and ECMWF. ems2012.eu/special_events/opening_ceremony_programme.html.

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EMS Council & General Assembly

The EMS Council met on 9 September 2012 in Łódź, Poland, and was followed by the EMS General Assembly. Reports of the EMS Bureau and Treasurer were approved, a new Associate Member was welcomed into the EMS community, and new representatives were elected to the EMS Council for a two-year term. Much time was devoted to the exchange of information on the activities of EMS Members and the issues they are facing in their day-to-day work. Also the benefits of EMS Membership were discussed in detail, and eventually compiled:

emetsoc.org/members-activities/benefits.

During the General Assembly a letter was signed to extend the agreement on collaboration between the EMS and ESSL (European Severe Storms Laboratory) for another five years.



Dominique Marbouty (EMS, left), Pieter Groenemijer (ESSL, middle) and Alois Holzer (ESSL) signing the agreement.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Silver Medal 2013

The EMS Silver Medal is presented annually to a person who has made distinguished contributions to the development of meteorology in Europe. This is now a well-established and recognised award within the European meteorological community.

EMS Member Societies, EMS Associate Members, EMS Committees and Project Teams and EMS Council representatives are eligible to make nominations. Details are available at

www.emetsoc.org/awards/silver-medal.

Nomination Deadline: 23 January 2013.

Young Scientist Travel Awards

The EMS invites applications for YSTAs for participation at the following events:

[Conference on Severe Storms](#)

3-7 June 2013, Helsinki

Application Deadline: 7 January 2013.

link: [announcement-ecss-2013](#)

[Intern. Conference on Alpine Meteorology](#)

3-7 June 2013, Kranjska Gora, Slovenia

Application Deadline: 31 March 2013.

link: [announcement-icam-2013](#)

[EUMETSAT & AMS Satellite conference](#)

16-20 September 2013, Vienna

YSTAs for this event are restricted to

Graduate and PhD students; two of

these awards are funded by EUMETSAT.

Application Deadline: 7 February 2013

link: [announcement-eumetsat-2013](#)

Harry Otten Award

The Harry Otten Foundation has announced the Harry Otten Prize for Innovation in Meteorology. The prize will be given every two years. The awardee will receive €25,000. Winners will retain full rights to their ideas; help will be offered to realise the winning ideas.

In 2013 the prize will be presented during the EMS Annual Meeting & ECAM in Reading, UK.

Applications can now be submitted. The closing date is 10 March 2013.

www.harry-otten-prize.org/participation/application-information.html

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Amir Givati

Amir is the head of the Surface Water Department at the Israeli Hydrological Service – Water Authority. He is also the



head of the Research Unit at the Israeli Water Authority and teaches at Tel Aviv University. He graduated from Hebrew University of Jerusalem and finished his PhD

in 2005 at the Institute of Earth Sciences at Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His expertise is in hydro-meteorology and water resources and he focusses on high resolution hydro-meteorological models, flood forecasting, seasonal forecasting and the effect of climate change on water balances, discharges and water resources.

Shimon Krichack, foreseen to represent the Israel Meteorological Society on the Council, had to withdraw for personal reasons.

Joanna Wibig

Joanna is the President of the Meteorological Section of the Polish Geophysical Society.



She has headed the section since 2005. Joanna is an expert in atmospheric circulation, its variability and trends, its influence on other meteorological elements in

Europe, contemporary climate changes and extreme meteorological events. She was the coordinator of one international and many national scientific projects. She is the head of the Institute of Earth Sciences at the Faculty of Geographical Sciences at the University of Łódź, and was the chair of the Local Organising Committee for the recent EMS&ECAC in Łódź.

Paul Halton

Paul is the President of the Irish Meteorological Society.

He joined the Irish Meteorological



Service (Met Éireann) in January 1972 and served in many roles in the organisation including being an observer, a Meteorological Officer in the Central Analysis & Forecast Office and

Principal Meteorological Officer and IT Operations Manager. Since February 1999 Paul has been a Senior Meteorologist and Head of the Information Technology Division in Met Éireann until his retirement early this year. Over the past decade he has represented Met Éireann internationally at ECMWF and at sessions of the WMO Commission for Basic Systems.

New Associate Member

The private service provider Epson Meteo Clima e Ambiente, Italy, has joined the EMS as an Associate Member. The General Assembly welcomed the company into the EMS community. Epson Meteo provides meteorological forecasts and related services in Italy. The organisation was founded in 1995 and currently has 25 staff members. The Chief Science Officer is Raffaele Salerno.

New items on the website

Members of EMS Committees:

Awards: [governance-structure/project-teams-committees/awards](#)

Meetings: [governance-structure/project-teams-committees/meetings](#)

Check out reports of YSTA recipients

[emetsoc.org/awards/travel-awards-ystas](#)

Join EMS on facebook

[www.facebook.com/EuropeanMetSociety](#)

Young Scientist Awardee 2012

Annika Seppälä, Finland, received the EMS Young Scientist Award 2012 for her outstanding publication "Geomagnetic activity and polar surface air temperature variability" during the EMS Annual

Meeting in Łódź.

Annika finished her PhD at the Finnish Meteorological Institute and University of Helsinki in 2007. As part of her PhD work she studied the effects of solar storms and the associated solar charged particles on the neutral atmosphere. This included the first confirmation from observational data that solar storms lead to significant amounts of NO_x being produced in the polar mesosphere and stratosphere and that these are maintained and transported downwards during the polar night.

Find out more at [emetsoc.org](#)



Outreach & Communication Award 2012

Two initiatives are highlighted:

Kappflygning, a weather book for children, is an outstanding example how to bring educational material on meteorology to early school children in an exciting and playful way. The book links adventures and exciting stories about a bird race in all kinds of weather conditions (in Norway) to educational material and meteorology-related science experiments that kids can do themselves at home.

Outreach Activities of the Irish Meteorological Society Committee 2010 – 2012

The committee undertook outstanding initiatives to communicate the science and history of weather and climate to a wider audience and different groups of the general public.

The project reached an impressive number of participants, from 300 in a weekend field trip to 2.500 visiting a 10-day weather exhibition, with presentations well tailored to the respective audience in subject and depth.

Find out more at [emetsoc.org](#).

RMetS new president

Joanna Haigh enjoyed science from an early age and after gaining a degree in Physics from Oxford University, she took an MSc in Meteorology at Imperial College followed by a return to Oxford for a DPhil in Atmospheric Physics. After a



post-doctoral position at Oxford she re-joined Imperial as a Lecturer in 1984, was promoted to Professor of Atmospheric Physics in 2001 and became Head of the Department of Physics in January 2009.

Joanna has been Editor of *Weather* and the *Quarterly Journal* of the Royal Meteorological Society, a Lead Author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Third Assessment Report and a member of many UK and international panels. Currently she is the UK representative to the International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences, Editor of the *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences*, a Member of the Institute of Physics Fellowships Panel and of the Royal Society's Climate Change Advisory Group. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Physics (IOP) and of the Royal Meteorological Society. Joanna received the IOP Charles Chree Medal and Prize 2004 and the RMetS Adrian Gill Award 2010.

New Board of RMS

At its recent General Assembly, the Romanian Meteorological Society (SMR) elected Florinela Georgescu, Executive Director of the National Me-



teorological Administration of Romania (NMA), as its new president. Also Constanta Borneant was reappointed as Vice-President. The leadership of the Society includes Sorin Cheval (Vice-President) and Ion Poiana (Secretary).

Florinela graduated from the Faculty of Physics, University of Bucharest and has a PhD in Atmospher-

ic Physics. She worked as a forecaster between 1990 and 2010. In 2011, she became Head of the National Weather Forecasting Centre and this year, she was appointed Executive Director of the NMA and is responsible for all weather forecasting and warning activity. Florinela is the NMA's representative within Meteoralarm (EUMETNET Programme). She is also actively involved in education and training programmes tailored for young forecasters and collaborates with mass media.

DMG Berlin-Brandenburg section: Autumn school for secondary school teachers

The German Meteorological Society (DMG Berlin & Brandenburg section) together with the German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ) organised the 11th autumn school for teachers in Potsdam near Berlin. The school aims at giving teachers in the field of geography and physics a background in the area of the earth sciences and also present new findings and developments. This year's theme, *On the road to sustainability*, covered topics such as the transformation of the energy system, sustainable agriculture and water resources including the impact of climate change.

The speakers were scientists working in different geophysical and climatological projects related to the theme of the school. Some 70 participants followed the lectures with great interest and used the time afterwards for vivid discussions.

Twenty years of ensemble prediction at ECMWF

ECMWF marked 20 years of operational ensemble prediction on 3 December 2012. Twenty years ago, on 24 November 1992, the first ensemble predictions were produced under the operational suite.

At that time, the Ensemble Prediction System (EPS) was run three times a week, on Friday-Saturday-Sunday, with 33 members with a T63L19 resolution up to 10 days. Today, the EPS runs twice a day with 51 members at a resolution of T639L62 to day 10, and T319L62 from

day 10 to 15. It uses a coupled ocean-atmosphere model and is extended to 32 days twice weekly. It is recognised as providing the best global medium-range and monthly probabilistic forecasts.

Spaghetti' maps are now firmly on the table of most forecasters!

Light Optical Aerosol Counter (LOAC)

Developed in cooperation with French research institute LCP2E-CNRS and METEOMODEM, LOAC determines the concentrations of aerosols (numbers of aerosols per cm³) for 20 size classes between 0.3 and 100 µm (with 10 size classes between 0.3 and 5µm). The instrument can be used to document the physical properties of aerosols in the lower and middle atmosphere during specific events like pollution, transported sands, volcanic ashes, and for long-term monitoring.

An integrated solution including LOAC and an M10 GPS radiosonde is available for launch on meteorological balloons with a total payload less than 1 kg. Using this configuration, the instrument provides real time data using the radiosonde telemetry.



LOAC is already involved in several atmospheric

research programmes (determination of the concentration and nature of tropospheric and stratospheric aerosols). In particular, LOAC has recently provided accurate measurements of the size distribution of Sahara sands transported over the Mediterranean Sea. METEOMODEM is a front-runner manufacturer of upper-air sounding systems and associated radiosondes.

Météo e Climat: Photo competition

The theme of the SMF photo competition is *Extreme meteorological phenomena* (floods, thunderstorms, avalanches, hurricanes, etc.)

Submission deadline: 10 January 2013

www.smf.asso.fr

MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

Urban Climate

25 – 26 February 2013, Florence, Italy

web.fi.ibimet.cnr.it/urbanclimate

Recording meteorological observations in Florence started 200 years ago, and is still carried out today by the same institution, the Osservatorio Ximeniano, in the same location in the heart of the ancient city. The Ximeniano is not museum, but a living institution that takes part in the development of knowledge in the field of meteorology. This conference aims to celebrate and emphasise its importance to the city and to remember and thank the colleagues who worked at this institution over the past two centuries. Main topics: urban climate and history of meteorology.

Forum international de la Météo et du Climat

21 – 23 March 2013, Paris City Hall, Paris, France

The theme of the 10th International Forum is *Facing weather and climate risks: outils et enjeux économiques à l'horizon 2030*. More details can be found (in French) at:

meteoclimat.fr/forum-international-de-la-meteo/

European Conference on Severe Storms

3 – 7 June 2013, Helsinki, Finland

en.ilmatieteenlaitos.fi/ecss2013

The conference will cover all aspects of severe convective storms. Researchers, operational forecasters, and risk and emergency managers are invited to submit contributions. In light of the global relevance of the conference themes, participants from all over the world are encouraged to attend.

Deadline for abstract submission: 15 December 2012

Note that individual members of EMS Member Societies can benefit from reduced registration fees.

The EMS will fund one Young Scientist Travel Award.

32nd International Conference on Alpine Meteorology (ICAM)

3 – 7 June 2013, Kranjska Gora, Slovenia

meteo.fmf.uni-lj.si/?q=en/ICAM2013

This conference is jointly organised by the Slovenian Environment Agency, Meteorological Office and the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics. Papers on all research topics related to the influence of mountains on the atmosphere on a wide range of spatial and temporal scales are welcome.

Deadline for abstract submission: 10 April 2013

The EMS will fund one Young Scientist Travel Award for participation in this event.

2nd International Conference Energy & Meteorology (ICEM)

25 – 28 June 2013, Toulouse, France

www.icem2013.org

This conference is a unique forum for exploring the nexus between weather, climate and energy, building upon the success of the first event held in 2011 in Australia. It is organised at the Météo France International Conference Centre in Toulouse.

Deadline for abstract submission: 20 December 2012

Davos Atmosphere and Cryosphere Assembly 2013

Air, Ice & Process Interactions - An IUGG (IAMAS & IACS) Event
8 – 12 July 2013, Davos, Switzerland

www.daca-13.org

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 recognises that many key challenges concerning global environmental change lie at the interface of these disciplines. Thus particular attention will be devoted to the interaction between these vulnerable components .

DACH2013

2 – 6 September 2013, Innsbruck, Austria

www.dach2013.at

The DACH meeting of German-speaking meteorologists is a joint meeting of the Meteorological Societies of Austria, Switzerland and Germany. It is organised by the Austrian Meteorological Society in 2013.

Deadline for abstract submission: 11 March 2013

EMS & ECAM 2013

9 – 13 September 2013, Reading, United Kingdom

www.ems2013.net

The theme of the 13th EMS Annual Meeting & 11th European Conference on Applications of Meteorology (ECAM) emphasises the partnership dimension of meteorological services: *High Impact Weather: Working in Partnership to Reduce Risk*.

Deadline for abstract submission: 25 April 2013

Deadline for abstracts with support application: 13 March 2013

2013 EUMETSAT & 19th AMS Satellite Conferences

16 – 20 September 2013, Hofburg Palace, Vienna, Austria

www.eumetsat.int/Home/Main/News/Conferences_and_Events/820209?l=en

The overarching theme of the joint 2013 EUMETSAT Meteorological Satellite Conference & 19th AMS Satellite Meteorology, Oceanography, and Climatology Conference will be *Water vapour, clouds, and precipitation, and the use of current and planned Earth observation systems to improve our understanding and adequately monitor the world's supply of clean water, trends and variability in the global hydrological system, and the prediction of impacts on people, society, and ecosystems*.

Deadline abstract submission: 18 February 2013.

The EMS and EUMETSAT will fund three Young Scientist Travel Awards for participation of Graduate and PhD students in this event.

Also check out the [>>Conference Calendar](#)

PUBLICATIONS

Launch of Geosciences Data Journal
Open access platform where scientific data can be formally published

The Royal Meteorological Society launched a new journal in partnership with Wiley-Blackwell called the Geosciences Data Journal (GDJ). This new online-only, Open Access journal will focus on publishing papers about data that are cross-linked to datasets which have been deposited in recognised data centres. Being able to publish data-related papers and articles in a peer-reviewed journal not only helps to address issues around provenance, curation, and discovery of data, but for the first time will help to recognise the contribution that data and those scientists that work with data make to the wider scientific community.

The NERC Data Centres are amongst a wide range of data centres that are strongly supporting the RMetS's new initiative. Geosciences Data Journal is now open for submissions. You can visit the GDJ homepage through the Society's journal pages rmets.org/publications/journals.



COMMUNITY

"Head in the clouds", by Hans Wieland of The Irish Cloud Appreciation Society

The 2nd International Cloud Festival, hosted by The Irish Cloud Appreciation Society, took place in Sligo and Leitrim in the scenic cloud spotting arena around Cliffony, Mullaghmore and Rossinver. True to our philosophy, that cloud spotting is for everyone, the programme was a mix of guided cloud spotting walks in Mullaghmore for the seafaring cloud-spotters and climbing the magic Benbulbin for the mountaineering cloudspotters, a poetry workshop with award winning poet Eamonn Bonner, a cloud bowl felting workshop with artist Heidi Wickham, crazy cloud painting and drawing with artist Diane Roemer and an illustrated talk on "Herbs for Cloudspotters" by herbalist Gaby Wieland. There was also a tour-de-force performance by Gavin Pretor-Pinney, founder of the Cloud Appreciation Society and a presentation by Gerry Murphy, television weather forecaster and meteorologist at Met Éireann.

About 60-70 cloudistas gathered on the last weekend of July and the clouds were out and about. Listening to Gavin on a windy and showery Saturday morning explaining the makings of the most common Irish cloud, Stratocumulus, was a grandiose opening. His talk on "Cloudspotting for

beginners" made us laugh and cry while at the same time popularising the science behind clouds.

Television weatherman Gerry Murphy let us look behind the scenes with his presentation on "Managing the message – the communication of weather forecasts". He had believable answers for all the doubters, who rubbish weather forecasts, by explaining how short term and long term prognoses are made. While climbing Benbulbin on Sunday morning we were rewarded with an ever changing cloudscape from stratus to cirrus and everything in between.

Feedback from participants, some of whom had travelled from the UK, was extremely positive and we are already looking forward to cloud festival number 3. Ireland is one of the greatest venues in the world for cloud spotting as the weather changes so quickly.

For more information see www.ticas.ie or join The Cloud Appreciation Society or post your cloud pictures on the society's



facebook site.

EMS & ECAC 2012

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The conference programme consisted of 29 sessions in four programme groups. Approximately 150 posters were displayed and 300 oral presentations were held during the week. The feedback from participants indicated that overall the presentations were of a high quality. The first day of the conference was closed with an icebreaker reception that provided a tour through Polish cuisine.



ECAC plenary session on **Communication on climate change**

This was a lively panel discussion (moderated by Szymon Malinowski, Institute of Geophysics, Warszawa University), focusing on various initiatives that assess differences in views between mainstream scientists and so-called climate sceptics.

Introductory presentations were given by Felicity Liggins, Met Office, on *Rapunzel scientists: communicating with climate sceptics*, Bart

Stengers, Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, on *Scientists surveyed about climate changes issues of public contention*, Reija Ruuhela, Finnish Meteorological Institute, on *Climate Service Centre and communication in changing media environment* and Rob van Dorland, Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute, on *Dutch initiatives for climate dialogues between mainstream scientists and sceptics*. Communicating state-of-the-art knowledge on climate change remains a difficult task. In particular, transferring knowledge on uncer-

tainties on various time and spatial scales remains problematic.

Award Ceremonies

This year all awards were presented during a ceremony on the Wednesday afternoon.

The EMS President, Dominique Marbouty led the session and presented the awards to eight young scientists who received travel support from the EMS to attend the conference, the Young Scientist Award to Annika Seppälä from Finland (see page 2), and the Outreach & Communication Awards to the Norwegian project Kypfflygning and the Irish Meteorological Society Committee (see page 2). As the committee had already selected the winner of the Outstanding Poster Award, this was also announced (see below). In addition, the Harry Otten Foundation made two honourable mentions and gave a presentation on what the jury sees as innovative and potentially prize-winning ideas.

The highlight was the presentation of the Silver Medal to Tim Palmer who was 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 the general public in Europe and beyond.



The laudation was held by Dominique Marbouty, and the Laureate gave the Silver Medal Lecture *Towards the Probabilistic Earth-System Simulator: A Vision for the Future of Weather and Climate Prediction*.

The presentation can be downloaded from the conference website.

link to [Webstream of the awards ceremony](#)

Outstanding Poster Award

This award was established in 2009 to highlight excellent quality posters presented at the EMS Annual Meeting. In Lodz a poster on *UK climate trends, as revealed by statistics for 1981-2010*. by Jack E.J. Eyre, D.M. Hollis, M.C. Kendon, T.P. Legg, and M.J. Prior from the Met Office, Hadley Centre, Exeter, United Kingdom was selected.

The selection committee, consisting of Ingeborg Auer (Austria), Sven-Erik Gryning (Denmark), Jean Pailleux (France), Rajmund Przybylak (Poland), and the chair Hans Richner (Switzerland), summarised why the poster was selected:

The optical, pictorial appearance of the poster is unique and different from any mainstream presentation: The reader is taken step-by-step in a circular clockwise (or should we – being in the northern hemisphere – say anticyclonic?) pattern through a well laid-out sequence of climate investigations. The scientific quality is – albeit not new in climate research – of high quality. The most recent climate trends in the U.K. are clearly presented and brought into context with long-term trends. The latter are depicted in an again creative manner as frame around the primary analysis. The results are of high value for any climate-dependent medium to long term planning issues in the U.K.

Link to the poster: [GF 35](#)

The award includes one registration fee waiver for the EMS&ECAM 2013 in Reading and the certificate will be presented during the award ceremony at that event.

Side meetings

A number of organisations arranged side meetings at the conference. These included the workshops on:

- Capacities and tools to increase benefits of the WMO RA VI Pilot Regional Climate Centre (RCC) Network to NMHSs.
 - Future work on homogenisation.
 - Implementation of a Climate Watch System in RA-VI in the context of GFCS.
- Also there was a meeting of the Board of the Harry Otten Foundation.

After the first successful training workshop for forecasters in Berlin in 2011, this

year a workshop on *Using CM SAF Data for Climate Applications* was organised on the Sunday preceding the conference, in collaboration with CM SAF (Satellite Application Facility on Climate Monitoring), EUMETSAT and EumetCal. The



workshop was intended to provide a platform for climatologists to discuss (potential) applications, exchange experiences, and to discuss the strengths and limitations of CM SAF data.

An overview of the data and services currently provided by CM SAF as well as future plans was given by members of CM SAF. The participants were given the opportunity to present their applications and to share their experiences with CM SAF data. The CM SAF team, Jörg Trentmann and Christine Träger-Chaterjee from DWD, were supported by Heleen ter Pelkewijk (EMS and EumetCal). The workshop programme is available from ems2012.eu/workshops/saf_climate_monitoring.html.

Publications and photo gallery

Photos of some of the scientific and social events of the conference are published on the conference website. Talks and posters presented at the EMS&ECAC are available alongside the schedule and abstracts for many contributions.



The atmosphere at the conference was very lively and inspiring. In general it was felt that the meeting was also a superb networking opportunity.

IMPRINT

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www.emetsoc.org