

Over the last three years I have been examining what environmental conditions are necessary for tropical thunderstorms to become severe. The 4th European Conference on Severe Storms (ECSS) in Trieste in 2007 was the first opportunity I had to present my work to a scientific audience. The positive feedback that I received made me look forward to the 5th ECSS in Landshut, which took place from 12 to 16 October 2009. Many great scientists from all over the world were there, presenting work on a wide range of topics in the field of severe storms, such as severe storm climatology, the history of severe storms, socio-economic aspects of severe storms, and remote sensing of severe storms. Especially interesting for my work were the presentations on the theory of convection and related numerical modelling studies.

During and after the presentation of my poster entitled "An investigation of a severe multicellular storm in the tropics", I had several fruitful discussions with a number of scientists, one of which offered me a job! However, I had to reject it as I already had a position at the University of Munich. After I was awarded the "Young Scientist Travel Award" during the conference dinner, which I was very honoured to receive, more people came to me to learn about my work. The conference had a manageable size of around 250 participants which produced an enjoyable atmosphere, and enabled one to get into contact with many people and thus obtain or give feedback on the work presented.

I would like to thank the European Meteorological Society and the organizers, especially Dr. Nikolai Dotzek, for making it possible that I could participate in this very interesting and special conference.