

The 2019 Joint Satellite Conference

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Conference report

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For the first time, three major organisations - American Meteorological Society, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and EUMETSAT united their meteorological satellite conferences into one event. The satellite conference was organised in 8 technical tracks, 77 sessions and nearly 800 participants. It was a great honour to represent Latvia as one of the 50 participating countries.

A broad range of directions and research applications were chosen for the conference regarding the satellite data and coupled Earth systems. Status of existing satellite products, data access, planned new satellite systems and their instrumentation as well as satellite data user preparation and training. In addition, research topics related more on satellite data usage and applications for the Polar regions, land, oceanography, marine meteorology, air quality, atmospheric composition, short-range weather forecasting and weather extremes in a changing climate.

On the last day of the conference, in the session related to snow and wildfire satellite products and data access, I had the pleasure to give an oral presentation of my work titled “River Ice Detection on The Daugava River Using Sentinel-1 SAR Data”. This research started from analysing “black and white” satellite images in an effort to understand the extent of the hydrological problem and turned into useful information to civil protection. In LEGMC, we had no history of using SAR data for such application, and it was an excellent opportunity to attend the conference and share the results with colleagues from many different countries.

In Overall assessment I consider, that for young scientists, it was great to attend the plenary sessions to have a glimpse on major organisations, their work, challenges and mutual collaboration to solve technical difficulties, provide data and solutions to monitor Earth systems and the changing climate. Excellent addition to the conference was a speed networking event, where I had exciting conversations with fellow students, early-career scientists and mentors from NOAA, EUMETSAT, AMS, NASA and the U.S. Air Force and Navy.

I would like to express my gratitude to EMS for the award because attending this conference helped to broaden my view and knowledge on meteorological satellite systems, new products and data applications. During the conference was existing to connect with other scientists and even more with people already known from events in previous years, therefore strengthening connections within the community.