



First Circular: September 2010

**Seventh EGU Alexander von Humboldt International Conference on
Ocean acidification: consequences for marine ecosystems and society**

Penang, Malaysia, June 20–24, 2011

Organized by

**University Sains Malaysia (USM)
and the European Geosciences Union (EGU)**

Scope:

Ocean acidification is already occurring today and will continue to intensify, closely tracking global CO₂ emissions. Given the potential threat to marine ecosystems and its ensuing impact on human society and economy, especially as it acts in conjunction with ocean warming, there is an urgent need for immediate action. This “double trouble” is arguably the most critical environmental issue that humans will have to face in the immediate future. The impacts of ocean acidification will be global in scope yet are some of the least understood of all climate change phenomena. Given that chemical effects are already measurable and that biological impacts may be dramatic within only decades, we must now accept the challenge to better coordinate and stimulate its research on ocean acidification. Such challenge is fundamental if we are to fully understand the consequences of and eventually help mitigate ocean acidification, which along with climate change might turn out to be the most crucial environmental problem and socio-economic challenge of the century.

Understanding the risks and consequences of OA and recognising that both OA and global warming are caused by anthropogenic CO₂ emissions will hopefully help to set in motion a stringent climate policy worldwide. The only solution to neutralize OA and global warming is long-term mitigation strategy to limit future release of CO₂ to the atmosphere and/or enhance removal of excess CO₂ from the atmosphere.

Topics (to be introduced by Keynote Speakers):

A) Ocean acidification and the marine ecosystem

- Seawater chemistry: paleoreconstructions, present observations, future projections
- Impact on calcifying organisms (plankton, corals, commercial shellfish, etc)
- Animal performance characters and species interactions (including ecosystem response)
- Microbial processes and interactions
- Biogeochemical cycles and climate feedbacks

- B) Ocean acidification and society and politics
- C) Ocean acidification and biogeoengineering
- D) Outreach

A field trip is planned by mid-week of the conference running from Monday through Friday.

Local Organizing Committee:

Zulfigar Yasin (Chairman)
Aileen Tan Shau-Hwai
NNs

Scientific Program Committee:

Peter Fabian (EGU) Co-Chairman
Zulfigar Yasin (USM) Co-Chairman
Aileen Tan Shau-Hwai
Foong Swee Yeok
Jelle Bijma
Carlo Laj
NNs

Conference language:

English

Logistics, Venue and Accommodation:

Will be given in the Second Circular

A Second Circular and Call for Abstracts,
with details regarding Registration Fees, Milestones, Accommodation and other items of
interest
will be mailed in November 2010.

For information related to previous EGU Humboldt Conferences please visit the EGU homepage www.egu.eu under "Topical Conferences". A website for AVH7 will be made available soon.

September 1st, 2010

Peter Fabian (EGU)

Zulfigar Yasin (USM)

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colleagues who might be interested.**