



EGU TODAY

DAILY
NEWSLETTER

From the
General Assembly

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2008



Dear EGU participants,

We are again coming toward an end of a very busy meeting. The week has been filled with excellent science, active poster and oral sessions, and a rich wealth of additional activities that will advance us in our scientific work. The meeting looks good in numbers.

We have 8275 participants who gave around 12000 presentations - both the number of participants and presentations is larger than last year. It is especially pleasing to see the growing numbers of young people at the meeting. As EGU is a very bottom-up organization, I would strongly encourage the younger generation to get involved in the union activities, be that becoming a division officer, convening a session at the meeting, or acting as an editor of a journal. Please make your voice heard within EGU, we are here for you.

We look forward to seeing you next year!

Tuija Pulkkinen
EGU President Elect

“Original ideas for teaching Earth sciences”

People from different regions and academic backgrounds will present techniques and ideas that teachers have found effective in giving Earth Science courses. Many teachers have worked for decades with

innovative and highly successful strategies, but little of this knowledge is exchanged with other education professionals. Today, they will have the chance to share their experiences. ES2 Friday 08:30-10:00, Room 9, Convener Artemi Cerda

Geosciences is responsibility

The opinion of...

Adriaan Zuiderweg, IMAU/University of Utrecht, The Netherlands.
“I think geoscientists have a responsibility to communicate science to the public in addition to other scientists. I work on air pollution caused by the burning of biomass. Scientific results on this topic can be read by politicians as by non-scientists.”

Thomas Hofmann (PR-Manager, Geological Survey

of Austria) “Geosciences is responsibility - this gives me the feeling, that somebody cares in a global sense for future generations.”

Carolien van der Zanden en Linda Versteeg, Elsevier.

“We want scientists to make good research results, so that we can publish them and provide that research the opportunity to be accessible for everybody worldwide.”

Arne Richter looks back

Arne Richter, one of the founding fathers of the European Geosciences Union has been in the council (first of the EGS, then of the EGU) for over 20 years. He is now the executive secretary. Many people will remember running into this amiable character at one of the many conferences he organised.

When did it all start, Arne?

“It all began in 1969 when a group of geophysicists decided to have regular meetings. Just a couple of hundred friends from all over the world. In 1971 we started the European Geophysical Society. It was fun in those days. We were very small then but since then, obviously, the meetings have expanded enormously. In 2003, the EGS and the EUG became the EGU and we now have more than 8,000 people attending our General Assemblies.”

What should the future of the General Assembly look like?

“It should be modernised, new media applications should play a greater role. For the future I see portable digital viewers to follow oral sessions. I would like the poster sessions to be less static. We already see laptops on a table next to the poster, but they are not often used. In the future we will see posters on a screen and be interactive and dynamic. This year we started live broadcasting (little bit). That



worked really well.”

Geosciences is responsibility?

“That has always been my opinion. Outreach is very important. Over the years, I have seen a shift from fundamental geoscience to scientific issues that touch human interest, such as global warming, water, and energy. Ocean acidification, for instance, is a major issue on top of global warming. We must report to the public, but the problem is that we cannot change environmental problems. Although we raise our finger we unfortunately don’t make the decisions.”

Next year, you will be retiring from the EGU.

Do you mind leaving the organisation you have watched growing?

“No, I don’t regret it. I will end my leadership of this project just like I have ended many projects. It was nice to build this organisation together with so many people. They just said: ‘Jawohl! We’re with you!’. I will just continue my other projects on hippotherapy and the Kindergarten in Katlenburg. The only issue is my health. The body is bad for people: one day, the body will be artificial, and the brain will laugh.”

General Assembly in figures

- More than 8275 participants from all over the world joined the General Assembly.
- More than 500 sessions were organised.
- More than 7297 posters were shown.
- About 9800 copies of EGU Today were distributed.
- Nearly 40 journalists and PIOs have been registered.
- 81 students assisted the organisation.

Reflections on EGU

Dagmar Röhrlich, journalist (Deutschlandfunk, Germany):

"It was a great meeting: a lot of interesting scientists and stories. We had some very good interviews that will certainly be used within the coming weeks and months."

Angie Rattay, artist

"From the beginning I had the feeling that it is incredibly well organised. I was quite overwhelmed about the concentration of information."

Mart Zijp, student: "Although the work is extensive and demanding, it is great to meet so many nice people; good atmosphere!"

Shaping the surface of Earth and terrestrial Planets from the Inside Out

The dynamics of planetary interiors have a profound impact on a wide range of surface processes. These surface manifestations include the very existence of plate tectonics, intra-plate volcanism and vertical motions with enormous impact on drainage systems and geomorphology. Recently, the resolution of seismological data has

Rapid Climate Change

The project 'Joint RAPID' brings together cross-disciplinary projects of atmospheric- and marine scientists, geochemists, glaciologists, geologists and climate modellers. It was founded in 2003 by the research councils of the United Kingdom, Norway and The Netherlands. This research programme is now drawing to a close. The aim of the Town-hall Meeting and the Interdivision Session is to explore the interest in, and possibilities to, fund an international collaborative programme of research in this important and highly interdisciplinary topic. TM5 Friday 12:00-13:30, Room 26, Convener J. Bamber. IS6 Friday 10:30-12:00, Room 26, Convener Hans Renssen.

Frontiers of Global Tectonics

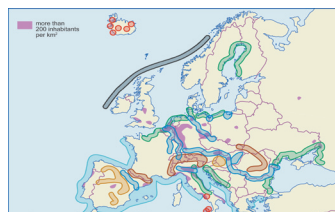
Assembled scientists of different disciplines promote a possible new image of our dynamic Earth. The aim is to arouse discussions and to search for links among seemingly unrelated facts. An example is the correlation between the occurrence of extreme-magnitude earthquakes and an increased annual rate of volcanic eruptions along the South American Pacific margin. This may – besides many additional clues – indicate a different flow of materials along the Wadati-Benioff zones. Large scale subduction does no longer fit the picture. Instead underthrusts and overthrusts of 50-70 km

Gerald Ganssen meets the Austrian Federal Minister of Science and Research, Johannes Hahn.



increased significantly, enabling the examination of mantle processes in great depth. Scientists are now trying to model the interaction of deep and shallow processes. New joint projects such as EARTHSCOPE, TO-POEUROPE (23 countries) and the joined European/US Grace Mission are beginning to produce vast amounts of multi-disciplinary data. This session will bring the visitor up to date about the current knowledge on

how to identify and predict the surface expression of processes occurring at great depth in the Earth and other planetary bodies. US4 Friday 15:30-17:30, Room D, Convener Sierd Cloetingh.



could potentially explain these recent observations. GD22 Friday 08:30-12:00, Room 24, Convener: Giancarlo Scalera.

Vienna by Day

Sigmund Freud Museum

In the former living quarters and office of Sigmund Freud you can see how the founder of Psychoanalysis lived. This museum presents his life and work. Bergstrasse 19, open daily from 9:00-18:00.

Spanish Riding School

At the Spanish Riding School rider and horse learn to work together in unparalleled harmony. Admire riding skills of the highest order during a Lipizzan ballet in the baroque ambiance of the Imperial Palace. Saturday, 11:00, Michaelerplatz 1.

Kunsthau Wien

Visit Kunsthau Wien to enjoy the exceptional art and architecture of Friedensreich Hundertwasser. Untere Weißgerberstraße, 13, open daily from 10:00-19:00.

Internationales Balkan Festival

Get the Balkan Fever during the performance of the Hungarian Romengo band. Saturday, 22:00, Ost Klub, Schwindgasse 1.

Bernard Foing being interviewed by Richard Black (BBC).



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EGU Press Office

Dick van der Wateren
Jacobijn Zeijlemaker
Thomas Kruijer
Anne Martens

You can reach us at the Press Centre of the Austria Center Vienna. Any comments or contributions are more than welcome.

Telephone: +31 (0)6 54604741
E-mail: egu-press@landforms.org