



# EGU TODAY

DAILY NEWSLETTER From the General Assembly

MONDAY  
14th of April  
2008



## EGU 2008 Welcome in Vienna again

It's my pleasure to welcome you to our General Assembly in the International Year of Planet Earth. We are glad to contribute by our meeting with the motto 'Geosciences is responsibility' under the patronage of the Austrian Federal Minister for Science and Research, Johannes Hahn. As a result of an intense cooperation with our colleagues from the Austrian Geological Survey we offer you a few little extras. I hope you will enjoy discussing science inspired by the talks and posters and spending relaxed evenings with friends in the beautiful town of Vienna. Thanks to all who make this possible.

Gerald Ganssen  
EGU President

## Welcome to the 2008 EGU General Assembly!

The increased importance of geosciences in the society facing global change is a strong motivation for all of us geoscientists. It is my great pleasure to welcome you to a meeting that reflects both the top-quality science and the implications of the results to the society at large. The meeting highlights current issues such as carbon capture, geo-engineering or increased possibilities of use of space in our research. All of these emphasize the need to cross borders from one research area or methodology to the next, which can be pleasantly and easily accomplished in the Austria Centre Vienna, where the wide variety of geosciences are present from the core of the Earth to the fringes of the solar system.



Tuija Pulkkinen  
EGU President Elect



## International Year of Planet Earth

The International Year of Planet Earth will be an important theme during this Assembly. The ambition is to use knowledge of the Earth to help build safer, healthier and wealthier societies around the globe. IYPE is initiated by UNESCO and the International Union of Geological Sciences.

### Submarine volcanoes

*Submarine volcanic activity in coastal areas is hazardous for mankind. But many volcanoes reside in submarine places, hidden from traditional methodology. Future technologies and natural disaster awareness will be discussed in this forum. IS74 Monday 17:30-19:00, Room 3, Convener Carsten Riedel.*

## Geosciences is responsibility

The point of view of...  
**Johannes Hahn, Austrian Federal Minister for Science and Research.**

"The well chosen motto of the meeting 'Geosciences is responsibility' reflects the situation of sciences in general. Considering that various aspects of geosciences determine our daily life in a very wide sense, geoscientists, who are said to study old rocks, turn out to be an innovative group of people working for our future. Up to now only few people are aware what geoscience really stands for. Since many years look "geological" at first sight"



of our society. This meeting of the European Geosciences Union is exemplary, showing that there is so much more to geology than catastrophes, pollution, the need for hydrocarbons and so on. This is also expressed by the ten themes of the "International Year of the Planet Earth". Personally I am convinced that the near future will show more clearly the need for geoscientific expertise to solve problems which might not

look "geological" at first sight"

Minister Hahn will pay an informal visit to the General Assembly on Thursday 17 April 2008.

BMW\_F<sup>a</sup>

## Great Debate

### Nature should not be sacrificed for mining

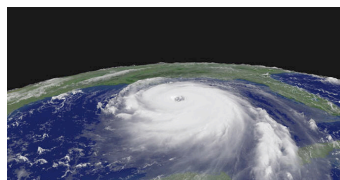
*With the increasing demand for raw materials difficult decisions must be made about 'where' and 'how' to mine. For metals, the European solution has usually been to 'off-shore' the industry, assigning mining to lesser developed or sparsely populated countries. For industrial materials local sources are required and their exploitation has an environmental impact. Two teams, one representing industry and government, the other environmental protection organizations, will debate the subject.*

GB3 Monday 12.15-13.15, Room 1, Convener Thomas Hofmann.

## Forecasting Natural Hazards: Where are we?

Three invited speakers each address one aspect of forecasting in their area. Fausto Guzzetti and Eric Smith will touch upon forecasting landslides, severe precipitation events and floods. Robert Muir-Wood will present a financial insight into catastrophe bonds and loss modelling. A panel discussion tackles the supposed roles of

government, academia and commercial sector in funding, formulating, and issuing hazard forecasts. US3 Monday 15:20-17:15, Room D, Convener Bruce Malamud.



## Wildfires and climate change

Every year more than 100 million hectares are burnt by wildfires worldwide. These fires emit ~3.5 GT of carbon to the atmosphere each year, equivalent to ~40% of global emissions from fossil fuel burning. Wildfire emitted carbon can be sequestered again by the regrowing vegetation. However, changes in land and climate use affect this intricate balance.



This session brings together some of the world leaders in related fields to evaluate current uncertainties and future trends. SSS5 Monday 08:30-11:45, Room 16, Convener Stefan Doerr.

## A closer look at earthquakes

Destructive earthquakes nucleate at great depth (10-15 km). Therefore monitoring active faults at Earth's surface and seismological interpretations yield only limited information on earthquake mechanics. Outstanding

Young Scientist Giulio Di Toro uses a multidisciplinary approach to tackle this problem. During his lecture "Strong faults in a strong crust" he will show that 'Strong faults' allow examination of earthquake mechanics at great depth. ML5 Outstanding Young Scientist Lecture, Monday 11:45-12:15, Room 5.

## Will the world's mountains still quench our thirst in 50 years?

Mountains are important sources of freshwater. Each year, the growing world population demands more of this precious resource, especially for agriculture, hydroelectric power and tourism. But water will rapidly become scarcer, especially in critical

hotspots like the sub-tropics and arid regions. It is of paramount importance to further quantify the consequences of climate change on mountain hydrology to create a reliable basis for water resources management in a thirsty world. CR14 Monday 08:30-12:00, Room 32, Convener Daniel Viviroli.

## EGU Plenary 2008

Monday 14 April 2008  
12:15-13:15, Room D.  
Chair: Gerald Ganssen  
Co-Chair: Tuija Pulkkinen

The link of deep and shallow lithospheric processes in sedimentary basins. IS73 Monday 15:30-20:00, Room 24, Convener M. Scheck-Wenderoth.

## EGU Medal Lecture

Hans Oerlemans presents his Louis Agassiz Medal Lecture. CR3 Monday 19:30-20:15, Room 29.

## Outer Planets and Satellites

PS4.0 Monday 08:30-19:00, Room 15, Convener Athena Coustenis.

## Looking for a job?

Post a one-page summary of your CV at the boards named "Looking for a job" in the exhibition area on the ground floor (Yellow Level).

## Offering a job?

Post a one-page summary of your job offer at the boards named 'Vacancies'. Three interview booths are provided where employers can meet potential employees. More information: [http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2008/job\\_posting.html](http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2008/job_posting.html)

## The Cradle of Life

Infant Earth was quite different from the planet we now live on. Its atmosphere contained little oxygen, oceans were warmer, the continents were smaller, the mantle was hotter and the magnetic field was weak or non-existent. This was the cradle of life. Talks in this session describe the latest biologic and geologic research on the early Earth, and explore the co-evolution of the Earth's interior and its atmosphere-ocean-biosphere system. IS4 Monday 08:30-15:00 Room 20, Convener Steve Parman.

## Ocean mixing: a shifting paradigm

The ocean's Meridional Overturning Circulation (MOC) is an important element of Earth's climate system. It is thought to be driven largely by wind- and tide-powered 'mixing processes' occurring at the smallest scales at which the ocean flows. Alberto Naveira-Garabato challenges classic ideas, using recent observations and theories on the MOC. ML6 Outstanding Young Scientist Lecture, Monday 10:30-11:15, Room D.

## Child care

EGU provides professional Child Care facilities in the congress centre. The service will be provided every weekday from 08:00-12:00 and from 13:30-17:30. The Bremen UNISchoollab offers experiments for kids (age 5-12). Twice a day (10:00-12:00 & 14:00-16:00) an experienced assistant invites kids to playfully unravel mysteries of mathematics and nature. More information: [http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2008/child\\_care.html](http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2008/child_care.html)

## COLOPHON

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