

European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2008



Vienna, Austria, 13 – 18 April 2008

State of the Cryosphere: what's up with the ice?

Press conference: Tuesday 15 April, 14:00-15:00, Press Room

Session: CR2 Monday 14 April, 12:00-13:00, Lecture Room 30, [Programme >>](#)

The Cryosphere, the world's icy part, is changing dramatically. This press conference highlights some of the processes leading to these changes, like the break-up at Wilkins Ice shelf, glacier shrinkage and the reduction of Arctic sea ice.

Angelika Humbert and Matthias Braun will give the latest news on the break-up near Wilkins Ice Shelf. The Wilkins Ice Shelf is situated along the Antarctic Peninsula, an area where 7 ice shelves have disappeared during the last decade. Humbert and Braun studied the structure and dynamics of the Wilkins Ice Shelf, through the analysis of satellite images of the past 22 years and interpreting them in a glaciological context.

Glacier shrinkage over the past 50 years will be the topic of Graham Cogley's presentation. Half a century ago, glaciers outside the polar ice sheets covered an area the size of France, Belgium and England combined. They have now lost an area the size of Belgium. Scientists argue that glacier shrinkage should be taken into account while estimating the contributions that glacier meltwater makes to sea level rise. He will also discuss the contribution of glaciers, in particular tidewater glaciers, to sea level rise.

Finally, Julienne Stroeve will present the state of the art in Arctic sea ice research. Arctic sea ice has declined dramatically in the last thirty years despite strong ice growth during the last winter. Natural variability in the atmospheric circulation could prevent the ice pack from breaking last year's summer record. However, the September 2008 minimum extent will almost certainly be well below average.

Dr. Angelika Humbert
Department of Mechanics 3
Darmstadt University of
Technology, Germany

humbert@mechanik.tu-darmstadt.de

Dr. Matthias Braun
Department Center for Remote
Sensing of Land Surfaces
Institute Bonn University,
Germany

matthias.braun@uni-bonn.de

Dr. Julienne Stroeve
Department National Snow and
Ice Data Center (NSIDC)
Cooperative Institute for
Research in
Environmental Science
(CIRES)
University of Colorado, USA
stroeve@kryos.colorado.edu

Dr. Graham Cogley
Department Geography
Institute Trent University,
Canada
gcogley@trentu.ca

Additional information

[The National Snow and Ice Data Center sea ice blog: http://nsidc.org/arcticseaicenews/](http://nsidc.org/arcticseaicenews/)

Dick van der Wateren
EGU Press Officer
+31 20 4632559 (office)

<http://www.egu-media.net>
egu.press@copernicus.org
+31 6 54604741 (mobile)