



# EGU Today

DAILY NEWSLETTER  
FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MONDAY  
APRIL 20  
2009

## Welcome to our EGU General Assembly 2009

It is now the fifth year in a row that we convene in Vienna. Never before we had so many (more than 13000) abstracts submitted. Our motto for this year is 'Geosciences is motion'. Major EGU 2009 topics and debates are related to our natural environment and its current threats. Ample attention will be given to atmospheric science. As climate change impact has become more visible, current developments in the field are among the most important EGU 2009 topics. Based on current pre-registrations, we expect an all-time record of over 9000 participants. We can look back to a strong continuous increase in contributions and attendants to our meeting during these five years in Vienna. When you read this it is my last day as EGU Presi-

## The Earth is on fire

The number and severity of forest fires worldwide is increasing rapidly. This trend has focused attention on the role of fire in ecosystems and the effects of fires on eco-geomorphic processes and watershed conditions. Post-fire erosion rates have significantly increased in the past few decades due to coupled effects of the destruction of the vegetation, climate change, and physiochemical alternation in soil properties. Future climate change combined with increasing human influence - especially in fire-prone regions - are likely to further



dent. With great pleasure and confidence I will hand over this position to Tuija Pulkkinen and serve our union for another year as Past President. I look back to an exciting and encouraging period of growth of the union: Not only our annual meeting but also our journals and outreach activities with a big thanks to all of you who have made this possible. I wish you a stimulating, fruitful and pleasant scientific meeting and stay at our 2009 General Assembly in Vienna.

**Gerald Ganssen**  
EGU President



increase fire risk and the consequent geomorphologic outcomes. Numerous interdisciplinary studies worldwide are currently addressing this issue.

**SSS18/BG2.8/NH8.3, Monday 15:30-19:00, Room 24**  
**Convener: Lea Wittenberg**

## This year's theme: 'Geosciences In Motion!'

The field of Geosciences is rapidly moving, growing, restructuring and shaping itself as societal needs for our expertise increase. Never before have issues such as climate change, economic aspects, or safety issues gained so much attention. This is both a blessing and a curse: The increased need for scientific understanding of the geospace environment has vitalised both European and national research programs. On the other hand, we as a scientific community must take very good care that we retain our scientific integrity. As scientists, our task is

## Is climate change influenced by solar variations and geodynamics?

What is the effect of solar system processes on convection in Earth's outercore? Also, do variations in solar

## Climate change entering the mountains

How do mountain systems respond to climate change? How does water scarcity in the Alps affect agriculture and tourism? Mountains are complex landscapes with rapid changeovers between water generation, storage, evaporation and discharge operating at different spatial and temporal scales. With increasing climatic perturbations and human induced processes,



not to tell the society what to do, but to give the best possible scientific information. It is our responsibility to communicate our research results effectively. With these thoughts, I invite you to a fruitful week of presentations and discussions, both within your own field of research as well as others. Enjoy!

**Tuija Pulkkinen**  
EGU President Elect

activity affect the geomagnetic field of planetary bodies? And do these two possible relations have an effect on climate change? Today, these questions will be debated in a debate dedicated to the memory of Rhodes W. Fairbridge. **GB1, Monday 17:30-19:00, Room 28**  
**Convener: Silvia Duhau**

a good understanding of mountain climate and water balance is essential. **CR8.1/HS13.05, Monday 08:30-12:00, Room 20.**  
**Convener: Daniel Viviroli**



## Today's EGU Medal Lectures

Julius Bartels Medal

**Jean André Sauvaud**

ML7, 15:30-16:15, Room 11

Sergey Soloviev Medal

**Jochen Zschau**

ML26, 13:45-14:30, Room 6

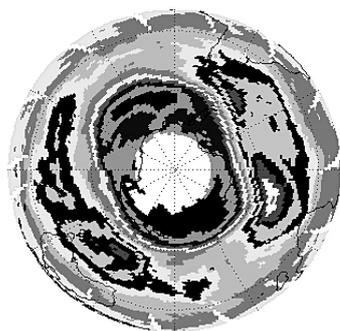
## South Pole ozone hole

The ozone hole over the South Pole has not increased since the late 1990s. While there are currently no clear signs of beginning ozone hole recovery, this is actually good news: The patient is not getting sicker. Up until recently, damage to the upper atmosphere caused by the emission of fluorocarbons wasn't expected to return to pre-1980 levels until 2065. Dr David J. Hofmann of the Earth System Research Laboratory in Boulder will reveal his latest findings today. He expects the South Pole ozone hole to recover in the next 10-20 years.

**AS3.10, Monday**

**17:45-18:00, Room 1**

**Convener: Geir O. Braathen**



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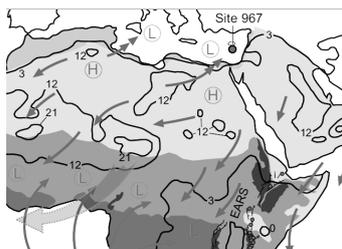
## The interplay of climate, tectonics and the living world

Climatic and tectonic processes are closely interrelated. Determining these interactions - deciphering the timescales involved and assessing the impact of these integrated signals on the biosphere - asks for an interdisciplinary approach. This session brings together geologists, paleoclimatologists, climatologists, biologists and paleontologists to discuss tectonics-climate-biosphere interactions in complex geologic settings.

**CL30, Monday**

**08:30-10:00, Room 27**

**Convener: Martin Trauth**



## Megacities: Air quality and climate impacts from local to global scales

The world's population will increase to 8.3 billion people within the next three decades and urban areas will accommodate nearly all of this projected population growth. Rapidly expanding urban areas lead to megacities with populations exceeding 10 million inhabitants. These mega centres of human population directly relate to rapidly increasing energy demands and associated industrial activities, posing a se-

## EGU Plenary

**Monday 12:15-13:15,**

**Room D. Chairs: Tuija Pulkkinen (President Elect),**

**Gerald Ganssen (President)**

## Tsunamis and earthquakes

Earthquakes and tsunamis have a profound effect on human societies. Using timely information from early warning systems, people can act directly to reduce the effects of such events. In the period directly following an earthquake, for example, information such as shake maps would be invaluable to disaster response, management authorities, and the forecasting of aftershocks. The current state of modern technology and scientific knowledge allows the development of advanced early warning systems.

**SM4.2/NH6.2, Monday**

**15:30-19:00, Room 4**

**Convener: Jochen Zschau**



vere threat to the environment at various scales. Local air pollution affects public health, visibility and urban climate. On a regional scale, release of aerosols and precursor gasses causes haze and acidic deposition. Emission of long-lived greenhouse gases and aerosols from megacities are strongly influencing global climate change. **AS3.8, Monday 08:30-15:15, Room 12**

**Convener: Luisa Molina**



## Colophon

**EGU Today 2009**

**Landforms Media, Amsterdam**

**Thomas Kruijer**

**Rogier Overkamp**

## Space Odyssey

"Geosciences in space" gives you a concise view of the multiple aspect of space as a platform for measurements, as an object for study, and as a political arena - highlighted by a presentation from the European Space Policy Institute. The European Space Agency runs an ambitious space-based Earth observation programme, which, while scientific in nature, also develops the future European operational Earth observing facilities. Finally, a US perspective is given of space exploration and its applications to protect our space assets.

**US2, Monday 13:30-15:00,**

**Room D**

**Convener: Tuija Pulkkinen**



## Looking for a new job?

The EGU provides a wide array of services. Post a one-page summary of your CV at the vacancy boards in the exhibition area on the ground floor (Yellow Level).

## Seeking fresh talent?

Post a one-page summary of your job offer at the vacancy boards. Three interview booths are provided where employers can meet potential employees.

**More information: [http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2009/job\\_posting.html](http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2009/job_posting.html)**

