



EGU TODAY

Daily newsletter from the General Assembly

Friday

7 May 2010

Closing Lecture of EGU2010 by Jan Smit:

The 30th anniversary of the discovery of the iridium anomaly at the Cretaceous Paleogene boundary: The state of the Chicxulub impact-extinction theory. Thirty years after the discovery of anomalous amounts of the element iridium exactly at the Cretaceous-Paleogene (formerly Tertiary) boundary (K-PgB), the impact-extinction hypothesis has reached adulthood and now ranks among the great geological paradigms such as plate tectonics. Incessant testing, successive new discoveries, competition of rival theories; all have helped to strengthen the theory over the past 30 years. This major talk is the last 'event' of this year's programme.
US6, 17:30–18:30, Room D

Meet the EGU

Meet the EGU Division President of Earth and Space Science Informatics (ESSI) This offers a great opportunity to meet with your division leader, get to know her / him and share thoughts and ideas.
EGU6, 12:00–13:00, Room EGU Booth, Convener: Stefano Nativi.

EGU in Numbers

Sessions: **594**
Oral sessions: **4431**
Poster presentations: **9370**
The number of participants will be announced this afternoon.



Dear EGU participants,

You have been attending what can arguably be called the "greatest show on earth" in the Geosciences. Through your commitment and enthusiasm the EGU is continually in the process of finding the strength and inspiration to make things better for our world and our understanding of it. I congratulate you all on our wonderful meeting and look forward to your input, by whatever means possible, over the coming years. This Union must be the house in which Europe refines its understanding of the challenges of our existence on this planet and our understanding of the others.



See you next year in Vienna. The next General Assembly will be from 3 - 8 April 2011.

Don B. Dingwell
EGU President Elect

EGU's 2010 Special Awards



EGU President Tuija Pulkkinen hand over the the Diamond Service Award to Arne Richter, on Wednesday, 5 May 2010.



Jelle Bijma receives the Union Service Award from Tuija Pulkkinen and President Elect Don Dingwell, on Wednesday, 5 May 2010.

New and original ideas for teaching Earth Sciences

Teaching courses in various disciplines of Earth Sciences requires continuous innovation as new concepts and new generations of students change the dynamics of learning and teaching. Excellent teachers are always looking for new ideas and strategies that facilitate engagement, creative thinking and improve the transfer of ideas in the classroom. New ideas and strategies are usually developed, tested, and applied by teachers working in a wide variety of colleges and universities, but little of this knowledge or results

of these experiences is disseminated to other teachers. This session is devoted to presenting teaching techniques and ideas that teachers from different regions and academic backgrounds have found effective in teaching Earth Sciences classes. During the EGU 2010, we will have the chance to share their experiences.

SSS45/EOS10, 13:30 – 17:00, Room 1, Convener: Artemi Cerdà.
Poster Programme: 08:00 – 19:30, Halls X/Y.

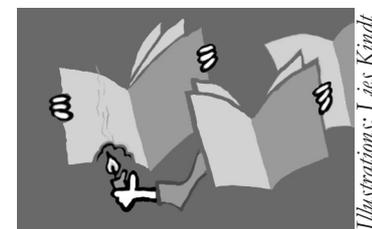
Science under Fire

Urgent need to build a general public culture in climate science

The public debate on climate change is driven by confusion between climate scientists, environmentalists and politicians. Major scientific challenges are linked with monitoring, understanding and anticipating the behaviour of the climate system. When we explain the state of affairs regarding climate research, including uncertainties, most people express that "if this is true, it is serious and has to be addressed". This leads to political, technological and economical challenges of adaptation and mitigation. The public debate on climate change is more focused on the climate science challenges ("is this really true?") than on the political challenges...

Uncertainty is an intrinsic part of science, and scientific controversies follow basic rules that include the demonstration of statements through observations or modelling, and peer-reviewed publication. However, the public stance on climate research does not follow scientific ethics. In a mockery of scientific debate, the media harbour simplistic views, such as: only greenhouse gases act on climate (the "environmentalists"), or that all but greenhouse gases are at play (the "sceptics"). Unfortunately, most people lack the basic knowledge on climate to act as referees for this public debate. Education is therefore fundamental. As scientists, we are duty-bound to make our methods, results and publications freely available. The open-access publications of the EGU are an important step forward in this direction.

Valérie Masson-Delmotte
LSCE, Gif sur Yvette, France



Illustrations: Lies Kindt

YES OneGeology Initiative

Roundtable Splinter Meeting.
Open for the public.
SPMI.27, 13:30–17:00,
Room SM2, Convener:
Eveline Speelman.

Greenhouse Gases

Ground-based remote sounding of greenhouse gases
AS3.17, 10:30–15:00,
Room 9, Conveners: Ralf Sussmann.

Now it's your turn

Join the discussion about our daily column 'Science under Fire' on the EGU-Today blog:

egutoday.wordpress.com.

"To the more radical faction of contrarians the whole science of climate change is but a conspiracy led by enemies of the western way of life."

Quirin Schiermeyer

"More than ever, such objective, unbiased translation is required to maintain (or to rebuild) the credibility of our scientific findings for the general public."

Dirk Notz

"Medical scientists don't understand breast cancer properly yet their imperfect science saves lives."

John McCloskey

"Why is it so much simpler to accept the authority disseminated by the popular press with its strategy of dumbing down, TV programmes with answers to everything and nothing, and the countless know-it-all websites that serve as breeding grounds for charlatans?"

Andrew Gilman

"Education is therefore fundamental. As scientists, we are duty-bound to make our methods, results and publications freely available."

Valérie Masson-Delmotte

These are just a few excerpts from the Science under Fire column featured this week in EGU Today. If you've been left intrigued and feel compelled to respond, why not post a message on the EGU Today blog:
egutoday.wordpress.com.

COLOPHON

EGU Press Office

Dick van der Wateren
Anne Martens
Armand van Wijck
Andrew Gilman

Himalaya Glaciers - Changing Climate and Changing Hydrology

The glaciers of the Himalayas cover an area of about 30,000 km², one of the largest concentrations of glacier ice outside the polar regions. Changing climate is already having an impact on most of these glaciers, resulting in increased melting, increased glacial lake development, and an increase in the risk and frequency of outburst flooding. Less well understood is the impact that continuing climate change will have on the flow of some of Asia's largest rivers, including the Ganges, Indus, Brahmaputra, and Salween, which all originated from glacier sources. This session will examine the changing behaviour of Himalayan glaciers and their relationship to the region's hydrology.

CR8.1, 13:30–15:00, Room 5, Convener: Bruce Molnia.

Natural Hazards Education and Communications

This poster session addresses how to educate and communicate information about natural hazards to students, the public, and government agencies. Of particular interest are the communication of natural hazard risk and uncertainty, the teaching of natural hazards to university and lower-level students, and themes related to hazard and risk assessment, disaster risk management and training in developing countries.

NH9.3/EOS6, 08:00 – 19:30,
Halls X/Y, Convener: Bruce D. Malamud.

Impacts of hydrological changes on terrestrial ecosystems

New results from large-scale water manipulation experiments across different biomes: changes in water levels in many wetlands, expansion of thermokarst lakes in the Arctic, etc. etc.

BG2.6, 08:30–10:00, Room 24, Convener: Donatella Zona.

European climates

Multi-proxy investigations of European climates of the last millennium.

CL1.18, 08:30–17:00, Room 15, Convener: Mary Gagen.

Capturing tsunamis in equations: Ira Didenkulova to receive Plinius Medal.

Each year the EGU awards the Plinius medal to an excellent young scientist who participated in interdisciplinary research on natural hazards, while focusing on the mitigation of natural risks. This year's nominee is the Russian Ira Didenkulova, who is well known for her theoretical applications on freak wave events and tsunamis. Her research plays an important role in risk assessment, as her analytical theory of long wave run-up can be used to provide estimates of the probability of coastal freak wave occurrences. She was also able to develop a set of universal parametric run-up equations which have helped improve research into tsunamis. It is truly amazing that a scientist of her age can already boast such an impressive résumé. Therefore, the EGU is proud to award this year's Plinius Medal to Ira Didenkulova.

ML19, 10:45–11:30, Room 10, Convener: Bruce D. Malamud.

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

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Blog: egutoday.wordpress.com



Splinter Meetings

Reminder: Public

Splinter meetings are open to everyone. For "Splinter Meetings" see online meeting programme.

The EGU is Multilogue

Official blog:

egu2010.wordpress.com.

Twitter feed: @egu2010.

Please use #egu2010 in your tweets. Webstream:

<http://www.cntv.at/EGU2010/>

Division Business Meeting

Division Business Meeting for Energy, Resources and the Environment (ERE). **DBM5, 12:15–13:15, Room 6, Convener: Michael Kühn.**

In Today's Geocinema

O. Borderie: Careers in Astronomy & Space
(52')

08:30–10:00

20 Thousand Years – The history of the Earth's last great natural climate change

(29')

10:30–11:10

Pasi Toiviainen: The Venus Theory

(52')

12:15–13:15

IODP Expedition 5 (10')

13:30–13:45

ESA: Huygens Probe – Landing on an Earth-like world: the View from Huygens on January, 14, 2005 and Decent Science

(10')

15:00–15:30

PEAT News Network 1-5

(30')

15:30–16:00