



# EGU TODAY

## Daily newsletter from the General Assembly

Monday

3 May 2010

### From the Editors

We have recently seen the worst attack on science in ages. The hacking incident at the University of East Anglia set off a worldwide scandal, with climate scientists being accused of fraud and sceptics having a field day. Despite the complete and explicit rehabilitation of Phil Jones et al., the impression remains that scientists are dilly-dallying frauds. Clearly, scientists are vulnerable to attacks by laymen oblivious to scientific truth. The aftermath is worrying. If we are sceptical about the causes and extent of global warming – “Science is simply organised scepticism.” (the Observer’s Robin McKie) – tampering with the atmosphere is risky business. These worries have led us to invite five people to write a daily column for EGU Today. We invite you to join the discussion on the blog and Twitter pages, see link EGU is Multilogue on the conference website.

### Large Magnitude Earthquakes and Tsunami Activity in 2010

This last-minute session will provide a retrospective on the earthquakes that shook Port-au-Prince (Haiti, Mw 7.0) on 12 January 2010 and Maule (Chile, Mw 8.8) on 27 February 2010. It will be followed by a Panel Discussion.

**SMI.0, 08:30–12:00, 18:45–19:45, Room D, Conveners: Mourad Bezzeghoud, Stefano Tinti**

### Today’s Medal Lecture

Hans Oeschger Medal lecture, Françoise Gasse: Late Quaternary hydrology in North Africa and the Near East. **ML8, 13:45–14:30, Room 15, Convener: Denis-Didier Rousseau.**

### Dear EGU participants,

Welcome to the 2010 General Assembly! The meeting is larger than ever, with over 14,000 submissions we have exceeded last year’s statistics by more than 1000 both in number of contributions and authors.

I look forward to an exciting week with many new faces around. The past year has been geoscientifically important and interesting: the climate debate continues, two large earthquakes occurred in Haiti and Chile, and renewable energy sources are actively sought to fulfil international commitments. EGU is taking an active stand in all these issues, be it through our Union or Interdivision sessions, great debates, or our recently launched programme to offset the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions caused by travelling EGU attendees. I hope that you all find a way to be an active contributor to these events!

**Tuija Pulkkinen**  
EGU President



### Splinter Meetings

Reminder: Public Splinter meetings are open to everyone. For “Splinter Meetings” see online meeting programme.

### Plenary Meeting

Discuss past and future developments of the EGU. All are encouraged and welcome to come. **UM8, 12:15–13:15, Room D, Convener: Tuija Pulkkinen**



### Welcome

As President-elect I would also like to welcome you all to Vienna for the EGU General Assembly 2010. Along with all of the Council and the Executive, I welcome your input, in whatever form, about the future of this great Union.

This event promises to be one of the greatest events of its kind. We live in interesting times. In the months since the last General Assembly, geo-events have collided multiply with the lives of all of us. It is our charge to ensure that the responses to geoscientific challenges are met with the best research, teaching and outreach that we can achieve. So roll up your sleeves and enjoy the challenges that the next few days will bring.

**Don Dingwell**  
EGU President-elect

### Science under Fire

*Climate scientists are still struggling with the fallout of the affair over emails leaked in November from a British climate research centre and the subsequent discovery of a number of inaccuracies in the last IPCC report.*

*Some media have since given increased credence to global warming ‘contrarians’ who seek to discredit the fact that human activity is warming the planet. 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.*

*This notion is downright ridiculous. Like any active field of research, climate science has major gaps in understanding. But the laws of physics dictate that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases warm the planet - and not even die-hard sceptics can doubt that their concentration is rising as a result of human activity.*

*There are worse lies going round on the internet - a sphere free of scientific peer-review or any other form of quality-control - than claims that global warming is a hoax, of course: holocaust denial to name but one. But the traditional media, one might hope, should put more weight on fact checking than agenda-driven bloggers consider necessary. That some editors don’t always seem to share this view speaks for itself - it is a sign of bad journalism, not of bad science.*

**Quirin Schiermeyer,**  
senior correspondent, *Nature*

Illustration: Lies Kindt



## Women in Geosciences

Women unquestionably play a fundamental role in the Earth Sciences as demonstrated through their major contributions in research, teaching, and community support and leadership at all levels in the academic, corporate, and political world. Nevertheless, demographics show a significant underrepresentation of women in the geosciences in most countries, which increases dramatically at senior level positions and functions. Hence the central question of this Townhall Meeting: 'What can EGU do for Women Geoscientists?'

**TM0, 15:30–18:00, Room D. Convener: Kerstin Lehnert**

## Networking Reception

Reception for Women in Geosciences (all are welcome).  
**17:10–18:00, Room D**

## Child Care

The EGU provides its own professional Child Care facilities in the congress centre for children aged 3 - 8. A separate area will be available close to the lecture rooms but not within the hectic and turmoil of the congress (Green Level – First Floor). The service will be provided from Monday, 3 May – Friday, 7 May 2010 split into two time blocks per day, 8:00–12:00 and 13:30 - 17:30. Please come directly to the EGU Info Desk to register your child.

## Geosciences Photo Competition

The selection committee received 100 photos for the Geosciences Photo Competition. Eleven photos were selected and are being exhibited in the Crystal Lounge – First Floor (Green Level). Now it's your turn. Please vote for your favourite picture by using the voting terminals there (see the flyer you received upon badge pickup). Deadline Thursday, 6 May 2010, 16:00.

**The winning photo will be announced on Friday during the lunch break, Crystal Lounge.**



## COLOPHON

**EGU Press Office**  
Dick van der Wateren  
Anne Martens  
Armand van Wijck  
Andrew Gilman

## Observing Polar Oceans

This Townhall Meeting will update and discuss the ongoing planning processes of future European Large-Scale Research Infrastructures: the European Research Icebreaker Consortium (ERICON-AURORA BOREALIS), The Svalbard Integrated Arctic Observing System (SIOS) and the European Multidisciplinary Seafloor Observatory (EMSO). Each of these will observe and monitor the European and Polar Oceans in a integrated and long-term systematic way. **TM7, 19:00–20:00, Room 1, Convener: Lester Lembke-Jene**



## Large Infrastructures in the Geosciences

This Union Symposium will focus on developing large infrastructure projects in terrestrial geosciences that may be the focus of activities in the period 2010 to 2020 and beyond. Such projects can only be achieved through a multinational approach in terms of their funding. Such projects include: marine infrastructure as well as ocean drilling vessels; large terrestrial geophysical experiments; linked permanent arrays for geophysical monitoring; large mobile geophysical arrays; linked interoperable geoscientific data-bases.

**US2, 13:30–15:00, Room D, Convener: John Ludden**

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

**Telephone: +31 6 54604741**  
**E-mail: [egu-press@landforms.org](mailto:egu-press@landforms.org)**

## GIFT workshop

The Geosciences Information for Teachers workshop has been a great success since its start seven years ago. This year, 82 teachers – from 17 European countries: the USA, China, Turkey, Japan and South Africa – have registered for three days of lectures and hands-on experience dealing with the themes: energy production, renewable energy and energy education. **EOS1, Monday – Wednesday, Room 29, Convener: Carlo Laj**

## Job & Education Market

The European Geosciences Union (EGU) and the European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers (EAGE) jointly organise a Job & Education Market. This market combines exhibition with presentations and aims to provide a forum where especially younger scientists meet and recruitment can be realised. For further details, see link "Job & Education Market" on the conference website.

## EGU OUTREACH

Please consider supporting the EGU outreach fund with just €20. More information on the conference website under "Support EGU Outreach".



## The EGU is Multilogue

*This year at the European Geosciences Union General Assembly there's more formal engagement with social media than in previous years.*

## Blogging

*There's an official blog. This will provide a variety of information about the General Assembly, highlight particular sessions and news, as well as many other things.*  
*Link:*  
*<http://egu2010.wordpress.com>*

## Twitter

*There is an official twitter feed @egu2010 which will contain information on key events during the General Assembly. If you're tweeting about EGU 2010, please use the hashtag #egu2010.*

## In Today's Geocinema:

*Eric Sanderson pictures New York – before the City (17')*

*10:00–10:30*

*Careers in Astronomy & Space (52')*

*O. Borderie*  
*10:30–12:00*

*365 days under Antarctic Ice (60')*

*Roland Schlich*

*12:15–13:15*

*Triangulation – The Base of Mapping in Finland (30')*

*Jyrki Puupponen*  
*and Jaako Järvinen*  
*13:30–15:00*

*Time-lapse proof of extreme ice loss (22'). James Balog*

*15:00–15:30*

*A Breath of Venus (20')*

*ESA*

*15:30–16:00*

*IODP Expedition 1 (10')*

*16:00 - 16:15*