



EGU TODAY

Daily newsletter from the General Assembly

Wednesday

5 May 2010

Carlos A. Nobre to receive Alexander von Humboldt Medal

The Alexander von Humboldt Medal, reserved for outstanding scientists from developing countries, has been awarded to Dr Carlos A. Nobre. He plays a prominent role in Amazonian rainforest research, focusing much of his attention on biosphere-atmosphere interactions. Nobre is one of the most respected and influential South American scientists in atmospheric sciences.

Medal lecture: The Fate of the Amazon Forest in the 21st Century. **ML1, 17:45 – 18:30, Room D, Convener: Tuija Pulkkinen**

Today's Medal Lectures

Sergey Soloviev Medal

David K. Keefer: Earthquake-induced landslides from horseback surveys through GIS analyses.

ML20, 10:45 – 11:30, Room 4

Jean Baptiste Lamarck Medal

Felix M. Gradstein: Improving the Geologic Time Scale.

ML26, 16:45 – 17:15, Room 41

Philippe Duhaufour Medal

Georges Stoops: Kubiëna's heritage: worries and hopes about micropedology.

ML27, 13:35 – 14:20, Room 8

Hannes Alfvén Medal

Donald Farley: Radar probing of ionospheric plasmas precisely confirms linear kinetic plasma theory.

ML28, 15:45 – 16:30, Room 28

Special Symposium in Honour of Arne Richter

After 20 years of service for the EGU and EGS, Arne Richter has resigned as Executive Secretary.

A familiar face to many who attended the General Assemblies, Arne was one of the founding fathers and the engine that kept the organisation running over the years.

Arne has served the EGU – and before joining the EUG, the EGS – as Executive Secretary for over two decades. The indispensable Arne Richter can finally look forward to his retirement. To say that Arne has played a prominent role in the establishment and growth of the EGU is a massive understatement. During his career, the EGU grew from a small top-down organisation, to the second largest learned society in Earth and planetary sciences.

Arne is a man with great compassion and social commitment who has experienced many magic moments during his time at the EGU. For instance, unique open access meetings, helping Russian colleagues by managing a foundation company, and supporting young children and scholars to understand natural sciences.

It is truly a pity to see Arne leave, after all, the EGU has greatly enjoyed his warm presence, priceless efforts and unconditional dedication. Arne Richter will be honoured today in a special symposium.

US1, 13:30 – 15:00, Room D, Conveners: Tuija Pulkkinen, Gerald Ganssen.

Reception for Arne, 19:15 - 20.00, Room D.



Great Debate, Great Success



Approximately 500 people showed up at yesterday's Great Debate on the role of science in climate policy making. You may have been disappointed that there was little time for discussion. Therefore, we urge you to join the discussion on



the EGU weblog: <http://egu2010.wordpress.com>, and Twitter: Twitter feed: @egu2010. Please use hashtag #egu2010 in your tweets. Missed the Debate? See the webstream at: <http://www.cntv.at/EGU2010/>

Science under Fire

Scientists all agree that a big earthquake threatens the city of Padang (population 840,000) which sits on the Sumatran coast broadside on to an expected megathrust earthquake. Do we agree on the detail of the threat? Of course not. So should we be talking to Sumatran people about things we don't fully understand? I think we should. There is an overriding consensus that a great earthquake and tsunami is possible; we all agree on that even though we don't agree on the detail. On 30 September last year, an earthquake M7.6 shook Padang demolishing whole areas of the city and killing 1200 people. This was not the earthquake we were waiting for, but no one in Padang knew this at the time. The response was not perfect but had there been a tsunami the death toll would have been much smaller than it might have been. Incomplete science would have saved thousands.

Over the entire globe, we can identify cities which are threatened by big earthquakes, we can't say when they will happen and we can't forecast their detail but we do know they are inevitable. This information will save lives if we can bring it forcefully to the right people. Medical scientists don't understand breast cancer properly yet their imperfect science saves lives. Earthquake scientists can do the same.

John McCloskey,
Professor of Geophysics,
University of Ulster, UK



Illustration: Lies Kindt

Roland von Huene to receive Arthur Holmes Medal

Prof Roland von Huene has been awarded the Arthur Holmes Medal for gaining extraordinary international standing in solid earth geosciences. He is also made an Honorary Member of the EGU.

Von Huene is a world-class leader in the collection of observational data and has led fundamental new research on the quantification of geological processes such as subduction zones. Medal lecture: Subduction Zone Concepts and the 2010 Chile Earthquake.

ML3, 17:00 – 17:45, Room D, Convener: Tuija Pulkkinen.

Division Business Meetings

Today there are Division Business Meetings for **PS, NP, SSP, HS, CL, GM, G, TS** **12:15 – 13:15**. For locations: see the online Meeting Programme.

Hydrology Education in a Changing World

Teaching hydrology in a changing world is particularly challenging. There are new needs for hydrological information with regard to environmental change, and there are new possibilities for hydrological research due to advances in computational capabilities.

This Townhall Meeting is an opportunity to discuss how hydrology education has to change and what opportunities this might provide. The starting point for the discussion will be three theses about the future of hydrology education by three eminent hydrologists: Murugesu Sivapalan, Markus Weiler and James Kirchner.

TM4, 19:00 – 20:00, Room 34, Conveners: Thorsten Wagne-ner and Jan Seibert.

COLOPHON

EGU Press Office

Dick van der Wateren
Anne Martens
Armand van Wijck
Andrew Gilman

Eyjafjallajökull - eruption, plume, and consequences

Besides oral sessions on Tuesday and Thursday, there is also an associated poster session on Wednesday. Note: There are a number of late-addition posters, not in the programme. **US7, 17:30-19:00. Hall A (A516 to A538) and Hall XL (XL377-XL395).**



Photo: J. J. J. J.

Meet EGU

Division and other Major EGU Officials present at the EGU Booth. Come by to see your division leaders. Discuss anything you want with them. Schedules can be found in the online Meeting Programme.

Water, Ice and Fire: Exploring the moons of our solar system with magnetic fields

The moons in our solar system display an enormous richness of phenomena, especially those in the outer solar system, which are often considered, along with their parent planets, mini-solar systems of their own.

Professor Joachim Saur will provide a tour of some of the amazing properties of solar system moons, which have been revealed by magnetic field measurements or where magnetic fields play a crucial role. Of particular importance are magnetic fields in the search for liquid water. So come and be magnetised by these magnificent moons! **KL1, 19:00 – 20:00, Room 12, Convener: Ugur Yaramanci.**

Meet the expert in hydrology

This is a great opportunity for a selection of young scientists specialised in hydrology, to meet two established scientists face-to-face for guidance and/or discussion of specific aspects of their current research. The young scientists have all sub-

Gerhard Haerendel to receive Jean Dominique Cassini Medal

For his indispensable and prominent role in the European exploration of space, Prof Gerhard Haerendel has been awarded the Jean Dominique Cassini Medal. In addition, he is also made an Honorary Member of the EGU. Haerendel has held many prominent scientific positions and has more than thirty years of experience in space research, being a principal investigator of several international rocket and satellite projects.

Medal lecture: Fascinating Plasma Structures. **ML4, 16:15 – 17:00, Room D, Convener: Tuija Pulkkinen.**

The EGU is Multilogue

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<http://egu2010.wordpress.com>. Twitter feed: @egu2010. Please use #egu2010 in your tweets.

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

mitted a case on the issue or problem they wish to discuss. This year, we are honoured to have two renowned scientists covering surface and subsurface hydrology research fields: Prof Günter Blöschl and Prof Jesús Carrera. **SC6, 17:30 – 19:00, Room 39 & 40, Convener: Elena Toth.**

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
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Jean-Yves Parlange to receive Alfred Wegener Medal

In addition to being made an Honorary Member of the EGU, Prof Jean-Yves Parlange has been awarded the Alfred Wegener Medal for his lifetime achievements in fundamentally improving the understanding and description of geophysical aspects of transport in porous media. Parlange's collaborators comment on his great enthusiasm and inspiring expertise. Parlange's outstanding contributions and his tireless dedication to scholarship and teaching put him at the top of his profession. Medal lecture: Wetting Front Instability in Porous Media. **ML2, 18:30 – 19:15, Room D, Convener: Tuija Pulkkinen.**

In Today's Geocinema:

Hygens Probe – Landing on an Earth-like world: the View from Hygens on January 14, 2005 and Decent Science (10')

ESA
10:00–10:30

Time-lapse proof of extreme ice loss (22')

James Balog
10:30–12:00

PEAT News Network 1-5 (30'')
12:15–12:45

Eric Sanderson pictures New York – before the City (17')
13:30–14:00

IODP Expedition 3 (10')
14:00–14:15

A Breath of Venus (20')
ESA
starting time: unknown

Triangulation – The Base of Mapping in Finland (30')
Jyrki Puupponen and Jaako Järvinen
15:30–16:30