



News from the EGU Committee on Education

2012 is set to be a year full of exciting educational activities

GIFT Distinguished Lectures

In late January, Anny Cazenave, from LEGOS (Laboratoire d'Etudes en Géophysique et Océanographie Spatiale) in Toulouse, France, gave the first GIFT Distinguished Lecture. She talked on the occasion of the XII Meeting of Earth and Environmental Sciences High School Teachers hosted by the Museum CosmoCaixa, in Barcelona, Spain. The meeting, attended by around 170 teachers, was organised by the Institute of Educational Sciences and the Faculty of Geology of the University of Barcelona, in cooperation with ESA.

Two other GIFT Distinguished Lectures are already planned for 2012. Mathias Harzhauser, from Vienna's Museum of Natural History, will address teachers from AEPECT, the Spanish organisation for Earth sciences teaching, in Huelva, Spain, in July 2012. Yvon Le Maho, from the Hubert Curien Multidisciplinary Institute (IPHC) in Strasbourg, France, will give a lecture in Poland in September 2012, on the occasion of the XIII Polish Forum of Science Teachers.

For more information about the GIFT Distinguished Lectures, a new programme inaugurated by the Committee on Education in 2012, please check [information on the EGU website](#). After an initial call for proposals, applications can now be submitted at any time; the Committee will examine them every six months in spring and autumn.



Anny Cazenave giving the first GIFT Distinguished Lecture.

2012 GIFT Workshop coming soon!

This year's Workshop, to take place at the EGU General Assembly in April, covers one of the most important environmental challenges of our epoch: 'Water!' Selected top scientists will address 81 teachers from 19 different countries participating in the symposium, while the teachers themselves will present their own activities to

their colleagues, either during the workshop or during the EOS2 Educational session 'Sciences in Tomorrow's Classroom'.

A few excursions are also planned, such as a visit to the International Atomic Energy Agency Isotope Hydrology Laboratory, which will follow a talk by the laboratory's manager. At the end of the Workshop, the plan is to visit Vienna's water treatment plant, the most modern in Europe. And of course, the GIFT Workshop will be inaugurated by a visit to Vienna's Museum of Natural Sciences, followed by a small ice-breaker reception at the Museum itself!

Teachers at Sea

The next session of Teachers at Sea, a 3-week oceanographic cruise on board the R/V Marion-Dufresne of the French Polar Institute (IPEV), will start from Singapore at the end of the General Assembly week. Five or six teachers from France, Italy, Malaysia, and Spain will take part in the cruise. They will be involved in the scientific research on board at every stage, working with the scientists in retrieving the secrets of deep ocean circulation and evolution of the Asian Monsoon during the last climatic cycles. Teachers might be able to bring home sediments collected during the cruise (depending on the success of operating equipment on board), and will be able to explain to their pupils how these sediments can be used to unravel the Earth's mysteries. Training will be provided on board to meet this goal.

In addition, the teachers will be in contact with hundreds of educators and pupils worldwide, via the daily reports (in English) that they will write together, which will be assembled in a blog. Their own classrooms will also be able to follow their teacher's scientific adventures on a daily basis, as teachers plan on writing targeted blog posts to their students, in their native languages.

The teachers on board the cruise will surely absorb the enthusiasm of the scientists. The educational goal of Teachers at Sea is to see this enthusiasm transmitted to the students in the different schools, as their teachers bring 'live' science into the classrooms.

Hélder Pereira, a Portuguese teacher who took part in a Teachers at Sea cruise a few years ago, said: "I truly think that this experience on board the R/V Marion-Dufresne changed and improved my teaching strategies, allowing me to take 'real science' into the classroom. I would like to acknowledge the EGU and the IPEV that have funded the 'Teachers at Sea' educational programme (...). I can only hope that other fellow teachers will have the opportunity to participate and enjoy the great experiences this programme provides".

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