
EDITORIAL



Premiering a theme, the EGU General Assembly – which took place at the end of April in Vienna – was particularly special this year. It not only had a series of new features associated with The Face of the Earth topic, but it was also the biggest EGU conference to date, with close to 12,500 participants and over 15,000 presentations. In this edition of GeoQ, we reflect on a busy and exciting time in Vienna, highlighting research presented at the conference as well as other special features of the meeting.

In the Articles section, we feature particularly interesting research we had the chance to hear about and discuss at the EGU General Assembly. Julia Rosen writes about the exciting Azolla, a freshwater fern that promises to be a sustainable source of biofuel and protein. Tim Middleton reports on the talks and press conferences given by Corrado Cimarelli and Jörn Sesterhenn on volcanic lightning and the acoustics of eruptions, respectively. Finally, Jane Robb writes about Andrew Cunliffe's PhD research on soil organic carbon.

Importantly, the EGU Voice section features an excellent letter from the EGU President. Günter Blöschl looks back at this year's Assembly, highlighting the most successful events and features of

the meeting. He also makes an important announcement regarding next year's conference, which is taking place in Vienna from 12 to 17 April 2015.

Another EGU 2014 newsletter highlight is a report on young scientist activities at the meeting. The conference had a few new features and events targeted specifically at early-career researchers that were very well-received. EGU Communications Officer Sara Mynott, who is also the young scientists contact person at the EGU Executive Office, reports on this.

On the topic of young scientists, three early-career hydrologists organised a very interesting session on the future of scientific meetings at the EGU conference. They report on the outcome of the session in the External News section.

I couldn't end this editorial without welcoming Hans Thybo, who was inaugurated as EGU Vice-President at the General Assembly, and Nicholas Arndt, Gerrit de Rooij and Hubert Savenije, who became the new chairs of the Outreach, Programme and Publications Committees, respectively. The EGU anticipates they will continue the excellent and hard work of their predecessors, Don Dingwell, Niels Hovius, Gert-Jan Reichert and Ulrich Pöschl. Find out more about the new faces of the Union in the EGU News section.

To finalise, a quick note to remind all EGU members to nominate outstanding researchers to the EGU awards and medals. Check our [website](#) for more information. The deadline is 15 June!

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COVER PHOTO: Programme books at the EGU 2014 General Assembly (Credit: Tim Middleton)

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