



Some highlights from EGU 2014

From 27 April to 2 May, Earth, planetary and space scientists from all over the world got together in Vienna for the EGU 2014 General Assembly. The meeting was rich in scientific achievements and international discussions and, for the first time, it had a theme: [The Face of the Earth](#). With over 15,000 presentations and close to 12,500 participants from 106 countries, it was also the largest to date.

The theme brought interesting new features to the Austria Center Vienna, where the conference took place. There were exhibition areas focusing on the five sub-themes of the meeting: Rocks of the Earth, Waters of the Earth, Life of the Earth, Atmosphere of the Earth and Space and the Earth. In addition, the conference featured daily keynote lectures dedicated to each of these topics, which proved to be extremely popular among participants.

Union-wide sessions, in particular the [IPCC Union Symposium](#) and the [Geoengineering Great Debate](#), also had a full house. The many scientific sessions, medal lectures and side events, which were of high scientific quality and interest, also helped make the Assembly a great success.

There were other well-received novelties at the conference, such as [PICO](#) presentations with a new format, intended to enhance interactivity among presenters and participants. The many specials we had for early-career researchers were also welcomed, including a lounge for young scientists and a student canteen.

Media and communications

Following last year's example, there was a strong online presence at EGU 2014, including active use of Facebook and Twitter. Thousands of tweets featured the conference Twitter hashtag (#EGU2014) and many used this, other session-specific hashtags, and the updates on the official EGU Twitter account ([@EuroGeosciences](#)), to follow the goings on at the Assembly. [@EuroGeosciences](#) gained some 140 new followers during the Assembly week and close to 80 new people 'liked' the [EGU's page on Facebook](#) in that period.

The EGU official blog, [GeoLog](#), and the EGU [network blogs](#) also saw a flurry of activity with some 30 posts published at the Assembly, thousands of views and many new subscribers.

In addition to its scientific achievements and active online presence, the conference also saw keen media participation and reporting. The Press Centre welcomed over 40 media participants, including



EGU 2014 highlights video: [click to play](#) or [watch it online](#). (Credit: EGU/Stephanie McClellan)

journalists, press officers, science writers and EGU bloggers. The EGU conference [has featured](#) in over 200 online, print and radio articles published by the BBC, Nature, Der Spiegel among many others, thanks to the hard work of media participants.

One of the EGU 2014 press assistants has produced an excellent highlights video of the meeting, which you can [watch online](#).

Thank you and see you next year!

The Union is especially grateful to those who worked behind the scenes at the Assembly. We thank the ACV staff, all the conference assistants and our conference organiser Copernicus, particularly Katja Gänger, Mario Ebel, Katrin Krüger and Martin Rasmussen, for all their hard work before and at the meeting. A special thanks goes out to the members of the Programme Committee, chaired for the last time by Gert-Jan Reichart, who worked tirelessly in coordinating the full scientific programme for the General Assembly.

The EGU is also grateful to all scientists, in particular abstract authors and session conveners, who participated in the meeting and were instrumental to its success, as well as to the hard-working journalists and exhibitors we had the pleasure to host. Please let us know how we can make the meeting even more enjoyable for you by providing feedback at <http://www.egu2014.eu/feedback>.

We hope to see you all next year in Vienna, Austria, at the **EGU 2015 General Assembly, 12–17 April 2015**.

An earlier version of this article was [published on the EGU website](#).

Welcome to the new EGU Vice-President and three new committee chairs!

The EGU 2014 General Assembly, themed The Face of The Earth, saw a number of changing faces in the Union. During the meeting, Hans Thybo was inaugurated as EGU Vice-President, while Nicholas Arndt, Gerrit de Rooij and Hubert Savenije became the new chairs of the Outreach, Programme and Publications Committees, respectively.

[Hans Thybo](#) was elected as EGU President/Vice-President for the term 2014–2018 in the EGU Autumn 2013 elections. He will serve as Vice-President (President-Elect) for the first year, then as the Union President for the next two years and finally as Vice-President (Past-President) for the fourth year. At the same election, [Mioara Manda](#) was re-elected as EGU General Secretary, a position she will hold for two years counting from the 2014 Plenary.

Nicholas Arndt, who is also the President of the Division on Geochemistry, Mineralogy, Petrology & Volcanology, will serve as Outreach Committee Chair for a period of two years, renewable once. The Outreach Committee is in charge of coordinating EGU's substantial [outreach programme](#), aimed at promoting the Earth, planetary and space sciences beyond the scientific community.

Gerrit de Rooij, the President of the Hydrological Sciences Division, will be the Programme Committee Chair for the 2015 and 2016 General Assemblies. He has significant experience working behind the scenes at the EGU annual conference, with hydrology being one of the largest and most active programme groups, engaging substantially with young scientists.

Finally, Hubert Savenije, who is one of the executive editors for the Hydrology and Earth System Sciences journal, will be chairing the



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Publications Committee for three to six years. The EGU currently has a portfolio of 16 diverse scientific journals, which use an innovative peer-review format and are fully open access.

Another important change approved in Plenary, was the modification of the Union by-laws. The new version is now [online on the EGU website](#).

The EGU is grateful to Don Dingwell for his work during his term as EGU President/Vice-President, and to Niels Hovius, Gert-Jan Reichart and Ulrich Pöschl, former chairs of the Outreach, Programme and Publications Committees, respectively, for their enthusiasm and dedication to the Union and its activities.

An earlier version of this article was [published on the EGU website](#).

Obituary: Peter Fabian (1937–2014)

Peter Fabian, the first EGU President, passed away on 11 March at the age of 76.

Fabian, one of EGU's founding fathers, served the geosciences through a great variety of positions. As the president of the European Geophysical Society, he succeeded in merging this organisation with the European Union of Geosciences to create the European Geosciences Union in Munich in 2002. He served as the president of the EGU until 2005, and then as vice-president from 2005 to 2006. Most recently, he was involved in the organisation of EGU Alexander von Humboldt International Conferences.

Fabian was an expert in atmospheric sciences who earned international recognition for his pioneering measurements of the vertical distribution of halocarbons in the middle atmosphere. He also

contributed to investigations on the impact of aviation on the atmosphere and established research on phenology, a powerful tool for probing the effect of global warming on vegetation. At the time of his passing, he was a Professor Emeritus for Bioclimatology and Emissions Research at the Technical University of Munich.

His presence in the Union, atmospheric science circles, and the wider scientific community will be profoundly felt.

Comment from Roland Schlich, EGU Treasurer:

"A mon ami Peter Fabian

I came to know Peter Fabian at the time a few of us decided to promote the merging of two well established European scientific

organisations: the European Geophysical Society (EGS) and the European Union of Geosciences (EUG). Peter Fabian belongs to the group of visionary scientists who really were convinced that such a merging would result in Europe's premier geosciences union. As a member of the former EUG Executive and of the EGU

board, I am extremely indebted to Peter for his contribution to this unique and successful adventure."

An earlier version of this article was [published on the EGU website](#).

Winners of the 2014 EGU Photo Contest and Communicate Your Science Video Competition

The selection committee received over 200 photos for this year's [EGU Photo Contest](#), covering fields across the geosciences. Participants voted for their favourites throughout the General Assembly week and there were three clear winners. Congratulations to [Trent Marwick](#), [Velio Coviello](#) and [John Clemmens](#) – 2014's fantastic photographers!

Congratulations also to Louise Crochemore, the winner of the first ever Communicate Your Science Video Competition. Louise is a PhD student at the National Research Institute of Science and Technology for Environment and Agriculture France, and has been investigating how to manage water resources effectively.

You can watch the winning video, '[Hydrological drought predictions for reservoir management: what's the use?](#)', on the EGU YouTube channel. The winning photographs are available on [Imaggeo](#).

These results were originally announced on the EGU blog, GeoLog ([photo](#), [video](#))



Details from the three winning Imaggeo photos – top and bottom left – and screenshot from the winning video – bottom right. (Credit: Trent Marwick, Velio Coviello, John Clemens and Louise Crochemore; photos distributed via [imaggeo.egu.eu](#))

New EGU partnerships

The EGU has signed Memoranda of Cooperation with the Geological Society of America ([GSA](#)) and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations ([IUFRO](#)) on April 28, 2014.

The GSA is a non-profit organisation whose [mission](#) is "to advance geoscience research and discovery, service to society, stewardship of Earth, and the geosciences profession". The memorandum now signed aims to foster the cooperation between 13 of EGU's divisions and the GSA.

As described on [their website](#), "IUFRO is a non-profit, non-governmental international network of forest scientists, which promotes global cooperation in forest-related research and enhances the understanding of the ecological, economic and social aspects of

forests and trees". The agreement aims to improve collaboration between 7 of EGU's divisions and 3 of IUFRO's.

This brings the total number of EGU partner organisations to five. The EGU has also signed Union-wide Memoranda of Understanding with the American Geophysical Union (AGU), the Asia Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS) and the Japan Geoscience Union (JpGU).

Further details about the new Memoranda of Cooperation, and the Memoranda of Understanding with AGU, AOGS and JpGU, are available from the [Collaborations](#) section on the EGU website.

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