
EDITORIAL

Just a few months separate the publication of the first two issues of GeoQ, but what a few months they were! The highlight, of course, was April's General Assembly in Vienna. With 11,275 participants from 95 countries and over 13,500 presentations, the conference was a resounding success. There was new and exciting research presented in more than 530 scientific sessions, two heated Great Debates, the first-ever EGU General Assembly smartphone app, keen media reporting, and much more.

In the months that preceeded the conference, EGU's social media networks were a hive of activity, and this only continued to increase during the Assembly itself. Since the publication of GeoQ #1, the Union's presence on social media has been strengthened by a growing number of followers on Twitter ([@EuroGeosciences](#)) and 'likes' on our Facebook page ([European Geosciences Union](#)). Driven by a series of guest posts and articles about the General Assembly, the Union's official blog, [GeoLog](#), has also enjoyed a marked increase in hits over the past few months.

Now, with the General Assembly behind us, the focus of EGU's communications activities returns to this newsletter. The Articles section brings you three pieces dedicated to three distinct topics in the Earth sciences: soils and wildfires; forests, hydrology and erosion risk; and the intersection between molecular ecology and the history of Earth's climate. It also features an interview with Millie Basava-Reddi of the International Energy Agency Greenhouse Gas R&D programme (IEAGHG) focusing on carbon capture and storage.

There is also room in this issue to reminisce on the General Assembly. Gert-Jan Reichart, the 2012 Programme Committee Chair, reflects on the conference in the EGU Voice section. EGU News features an article on this year's Medal Ceremony and a short report on Press Office activities at the conference, as well as selected pieces from our blog and website about some of the Assembly's events and sessions. Finally, the Education section reports on the GIFT Workshop in Vienna.



Prior to joining EGU in September 2011, Bárbara worked as a science writer at the European Southern Observatory in Garching near Munich, and as a technical editor for London-based Form & Content Media. She completed a PhD in astrophysics from the University of Cambridge in 2010.

I couldn't finish this editorial without mentioning Envisat. ESA's Earth observation satellite was instrumental for many new findings and used widely for research in many of the disciplines covered by EGU. Sadly, the European Space Agency lost communication with the satellite in April, and [formally ended the mission on May 9](#).

It is now more urgent than ever to secure funding for the follow-on Sentinel satellites to make sure the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security ([GMES](#)) initiative proceeds as scheduled. This is crucial to avoid disruption in the products and services GMES delivers, which have applications ranging from flood warnings and air-quality forecasting, to food security and humanitarian aid. The EGU has written to European policymakers to highlight the importance of environmental satellites and urge all parties to come to an agreement to allow the prompt launch of Envisat's follow-on mission.

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The current and previous editions of the the EGU newsletter (GeoQ and The Eggs) are available online at www.egu.eu/newsletter.

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COVER PHOTO: EGU flags outside the Austria Center Vienna during the 2012 General Assembly,
by Edvard Glücksman (EGU Science Communications Fellow)

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