



7th EMS Annual Meeting of the European Meteorological Society
8th European Conference on Applications of Meteorology
San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Spain, 1-5 October 2007

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate experts from all over Europe discuss regional consequences and impacts of climate change. The conference will provide decision making support tools to mitigate the societal and economic impact of high impact weather.

GENEVA/MADRID/BERLIN 1 OCTOBER 2007:

After the publication of the IPCC report in February, that reinforced concerns about the development of the climate, the question of how to mitigate and adapt to climate change has become a central issue for all societies. In October over 500 experts from all over Europe and America are expected to attend the Seventh Annual Meeting of the European Meteorological Society (EMS) in San Lorenzo de El Escorial (1-5 October). The Meeting is being run in parallel with the Eighth European Conference on Applications of Meteorology (ECAM), which is being hosted by the Government of Spain and organized by European Meteorological and Hydrological Services under the leadership of the Spanish Weather Service INM.

The EMS President, Dr David Burridge, said: "After the publication of the Stern Review it is clear that strong international actions are required now – in order to avoid the worst impacts. Even with drastic reductions of emissions of greenhouse gases, the effects of past emissions are already being felt now and will continue to exacerbate the situation over the coming decades. Thus it is imperative that we understand the regional and local consequences of climate change, and provide decision making support tools to mitigate the societal and economic impact."

The central focus of the ECAM meeting will be how to further exploit meteorology for the benefit of society in the 21st century. European collaboration is essential for better services for the society, but ultimately the problems as well as the solutions have to be co-ordinated in a global framework. The the collaboration with the American Meteorological Society in the organisation of conference programme is a strong signal in that direction.

Mr Francisco Cadarso, Director of the Instituto Nacional de Meteorología and Permanent Representative of Spain with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said: "Strong cross-border partnerships between European National Meteorological and Hydrological Services have never been so important. Improved forecasts of *High Impact Weather* that affects almost all sectors of society and the economy can only be achieved on a coordinated international level. With climate change inevitable, the benefit of meteorological information for society is at the top of our agenda."

Mr Michel Jarraud, WMO Secretary-General, said: "We are reviewing and refocusing our regional and global efforts to reduce and mitigate further natural disasters. and to contribute more effectively to climate change and climate variability studies. The WMO programmes play a crucial role in developing tools and structures to provide more timely and increasingly accurate weather forecasts to support the decision-makers in

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achieving the desired societal and economic outcomes.”

Session topics at the EMS and ECAM Meetings include

*The dynamics and predictability of high impact weather
Meteorology and customer value
Atmospheric hazards
Environmental meteorology
The Integration of meteorological information into decision making processes
Climate change and variability in Europe, including extremes and its societal impacts.*

Two discussion sessions, scheduled for the middle of the week will focus on

Satellite data for the observation and prediction of weather and climate

Strategies for the future of meteorology – how to further exploit meteorology for the benefit of society in the 21st century.

In addition, there will be a special “Media” session to examine ways of improving communication and understanding between scientists, media and the public.

The WMO, INM and EMS work collectively to improve European National Meteorological and Hydrological Services for the social and economic benefit of their respective populations.

Meeting and conference website: <http://meetings.copernicus.org/ems2007>

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