

Introduction

Dear readers,

Time is running. The remembrance of our last meeting at DMI still fresh in our minds, while already focussing on our next meeting. With high expectations we gathered for this 2008 Copenhagen meeting and indeed the programme offered a broad perspective on “human related” topics related to severe weather forecasting and warnings. The stress that forecasters experience during high impact weather episodes, together with their high feeling for responsibility is often making a cocktail filled with tricky human factors. Being aware of these factors and sharing thoughts and expectations together with others, is probably the best solution to deal and take advantage of this.

At my institute I noticed that, while forecasters were thinking efficiency is already at its top, new developments are coming up, trying to be even more efficient. A tendency to act low key and rely more on automated model output when the weather is not expected to be dangerous can be seen. While at the other side, more attention and human skill will be put in high impact weather. In the near future, this way of thinking will probably also imply more weather depending shift strategies. Next to this a tendency towards more dedicated meteorological consultancy within the public domain can be seen. For critical weather related crisis processes, a meteorologist will be present within external governmental decision teams.

For sure these and other new developments will also be seen at your service. To enable ourselves to learn from this, we highlighted these “New Developments” to be the main topic for our next meeting.

Again a beautiful coloured edition of the European Forecaster newsletter, the 14th edition lies in front of you. All topics discussed the 4th of October in Copenhagen can be read. I call up on all of us to recommend this edition to all our colleagues. I also call up on all readers to send in new contributions for the next (15th) edition. The European Forecaster is a great platform to share knowledge and experience amongst forecasters. All articles again were reviewed by Will Lang with kind assistance from Nick Grahame (both from UKMO). Bernard Roulet and Météo France made it possible again to present you this high quality printed edition. Many thanks also to André-Charles Letestu (Météo Suisse) who updated our website www.euroforecaster.org with actual information on the Working Group together with website links. Our web archive shows the previous editions of the Newsletter.

I wish you many inspiring reading hours and hope to see you during our next WGCEF meeting, Saturday 3rd of October 2009 at Météo France in Toulouse.

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Chairperson of WGCEF