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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This summer (July 2009), the Eighth International Conference on School and Popular Meteorological and Oceanographic Education convenes in Prague, Czech Republic. This conference provides a forum for scientists, educators and interested participants to exchange their ideas on educational initiatives to promote the study of and to increase the awareness of weather, oceans and climate. This paper examines the history of this conference and provides information about the upcoming conference.

The second conference changed its title and expanded its focus by including oceanography as a field of interest. It was called The Second International Conference on School and Popular Meteorological and Oceanographic Education (ICSPMOE) and was held in July 1989 in Crystal City, just outside Washington DC. Hosted by the AMS, it was co-sponsored by the RMS and the WMO. The conference attracted 180 participants from sixteen countries, almost 100 of them teachers from the USA, supported by the AMS with a generous grant from the National Science Foundation (Snow et al., 1990). The papers presented at this conference were published by the in an AMS pre-print volume.

## 2. HISTORY OF THE CONFERENCE

The series of conferences now known as EWOC (Education: Weather, Ocean, Climate) began in 1984; on 2 to 4 July, the First International Conference on School and Popular Meteorological Education was held in an Oxford University college. The host organization was the Royal Meteorological Society (RMS) and the conference was co-sponsored by the American Meteorological Society (AMS) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The meeting attracted 82 participants from 22 countries, and the proceedings of the conference were published by the Royal Meteorological Society in 1985 in a volume called *Weather Education* (Walker, 1985). This volume contains a record of the papers presented at the conference, as well as information about the workshops and exhibitions that were important elements of the meeting. It also contains the text of the address by G.O.P. Obasi, Secretary-General of World Meteorological.

The third ICSPMOE was held in Toronto, Canada, in July 1993 and took place in the Ontario Science Centre. The host organization was the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society, and the co-sponsors were again the AMS, RMS and WMO. The conference attracted 140 participants from twenty countries (Newman and Smith, 1994).

The fourth conference, held in July 1996, at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland; the host organization was again the RMS, as in 1984. The co-sponsors were the AMS and WMO. The pre-print volume was produced by the RMS. The conference attracted 124 participants from sixteen countries, many of whom took advantage of the two post-conference study days which focused upon the outstanding geology of Scotland's east coast. (Moran et al., 1998)

The fifth ICSPMOE, the first conference to be renamed EWOC, was held in Australia in July 1999. The first two days of the conference took place in the University of Ballarat and the last two in a secondary school in Melbourne. On the third

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day of the conference, enroute from Ballarat to Melbourne, conference delegates enjoyed visits to the Marine Discovery Centre at Queenscliff and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology in Melbourne. The conference was hosted by the Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society, and the co-sponsors were again the RMS, AMS and WMO. In addition, several Australian bodies provided support, among them the Bureau of Meteorology. The conference attracted 105 participants from twelve countries. An innovation for this conference was a competition for Australian schools in which students undertook weather projects. (Smith and Moran, 2000).

The sixth conference was held in the Universidad Europea de Madrid, Spain, in July 2003. It was hosted by the university's Physics Department and attracted 120 participants from 19 countries. The co-sponsors were, yet again, the RMS, AMS and WMO with additional sponsorship provided by a number of Spanish bodies, including the Instituto Nacional de Meteorologia. For the first time, the pre-print volume took the form of a CD, produced by the host organization. Again there was a competition for school children, this one an international competition in which children were invited to prepare a weather broadcast.

The seventh meeting was hosted by the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) at Boulder, CO. This conference attracted 135 delegates from 12 countries. The scientists from UCAR provided more of a climate theme than past conferences. AMS established a permanent website to make papers available for a long-term basis.

These seven previous conferences have provided educators with an excellent opportunity to exchange their ideas on how to promote the study of weather, oceans, and climate and to present their innovations for the classroom or popular educational venues.

### 3. PLANS FOR EWOC 2009

#### 3.1 Conference Venue

EWOC 2009 will occur from 6-10 July 2009 in Prague, Czech Republic. The local host for EWOC 2009 is Charles University in Prague (<http://ipc1.cuni.cz/iis/>) co-sponsored by the European Meteorological Society (<http://www.emetsoc.org>), the American Meteorological Society (<http://www.ametsoc.org>) and the Royal Meteorological Society (<http://www.rmets.org>). The Local Arrangements Committee is chaired by Tomas Halenka of Charles University in Prague.

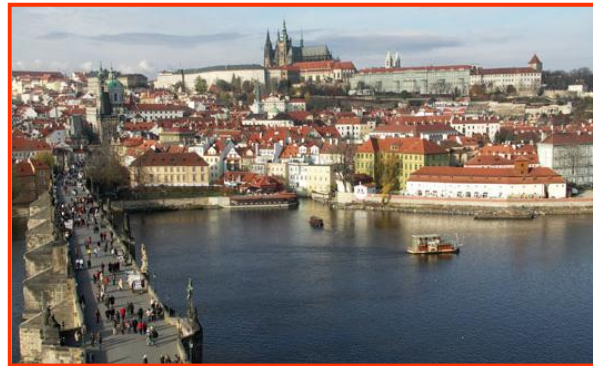


Fig. 1. The city of Prague, site of EWOC 2009.

#### 3.2 Conference Program

The EWOC 2009 conference information is available on <http://www.ewoc2009.org> and <http://www.ametsoc.org/meet/fainst/ewoc2009.html>. Registrations are being accepted currently through 30 April 2009. Papers for both oral and poster presentation are solicited and abstracts may be submitted electronically via the Web by 15 February 2009. Workshops featuring hands-on activities for the classroom will be included in the program. The focus of this conference will be on education and outreach initiatives pertaining to weather, ocean and climate. Topics for sessions include:

- Climate change education
- Role of new technologies in meteorology, oceanography and climate education
- Enhancing public awareness of meteorology, oceanography and climate through the media
- Science, society and schools
- The role of learned societies in educational outreach
- Meteorology, oceanography and climate studies in the curriculum
- Teacher training
- Student-centered educational programs
- Instruments and automated weather stations for the classroom
- Education and outreach for the coastal and marine environment
- Promoting diversity and enhancing the involvement of under-represented
- Informal education for meteorology, oceanography, and climate studies
- International education programs and collaborations

### 3.3 Registration and Lodging

The EWOC 2009 registration fee is expected not to exceed \$400. It will cover all conference sessions and coffee breaks; arrangements for luncheons will be separate. Lodging at Prague-area hotels will be listed on the conference web site hotels until June 3, 2009.

### 3.4 Local Community Amenities

Prague is a lovely city on the Vltava River in the heart of the Czech Republic. It is a city with much old world charm, whose skyline is highlighted with castles, churches, abbeys and many other beautiful structures dating to the 10<sup>th</sup> century. Prague offers a variety of hotels and restaurants that can satisfy any taste and budget. There is much to see and do in this lovely Eastern European city.

A few optional guided tours and trips are planned in connection to the conference. In addition to standard city sightseeing, special guided walks are planned for downtown where the flood of 2002. Special tours will be given to the Astronomical Tower in Klementinum, the place where uninterrupted meteorological measurements have been provided since 1775. A geological tour to the edge of Barrandien which is extended to the Prague outskirts is planned as well as the night visit to Prague Astronomical Observatory. Other entertainment such as a boat trip on the Vltava River or live jazz in local bars is available. Full day trips are in preparation for the Sunday before the meeting and Saturday after the meeting, to famous Czech medieval castles and some natural and technical places of interest (e.g., limestone cave, dams on Vltava River). Descriptions of these events will appear on the EWOC2009 web site.

The conference will take place at the *Mala Strana Campus*, one of the buildings of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University in Prague. It is situated in the center of Prague, in the historic quarter called Malá Strana (Lesser Town).

The expected weather conditions for a summer day in Prague is frequently "clear to partly cloudy with a chance of afternoon showers." Daytime temperatures are normally in the low to mid-80s, but more comfortable after sunset. So, bring a sweater to ensure comfort in air-conditioned rooms and a rain jacket, in case of a shower.

Prague is easily accessible from most major international airports throughout the world, with a shuttle system from the airport to the city. Once in Prague there is a modern mass transit system, including an underground railway metro, buses and trams, that services the city and

surrounding areas. Of course, evening walks along the lovely streets of Prague will be a very popular option.

## 4. SUMMARY

Informal, K-12, and undergraduate educators with interest in sharing and enhancing their knowledge about weather, oceans, and climate educational programs around the world will benefit from the EWOC 2009 conference to be held at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. Details about the conference may be accessed at: <http://www.ametsoc.org/meet/fainst/ewoc2009.html> or <http://www.ewoc2009.org>.

For further information, please contact the program co-chairperson: David R. Smith, Oceanography Department, United States Naval Academy, 572C Holloway Road, Annapolis, MD 21402 (tel. 410-293-6553; fax 410-293-2137; email: [drsmith@usna.edu](mailto:drsmith@usna.edu) or the Local Arrangements Committee coordinator: Tomas Halenka, Department of Meteorology and Environmental Protection, Charles University of Prague, V Holesovickach 2, 180 00, Prague, Czech Republic; tel. 420-2-2191-2514; fax 420-2-2191-2533; email: [tomas.halenka@mff.cuni.cz](mailto:tomas.halenka@mff.cuni.cz)

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