

WHAT IS AN EWOC?

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1. INTRODUCTION

EWOC's, unlike the furry little creatures in Star Wars, are real, live, active change agents. They're not a new government agency, and definitely are not representatives of a new acronym for national standardized tests.

The name of the International Conference on School and Popular Meteorology and Oceanography, held every three years, became assemblies known as the EWOC Conference. People participating in these global conferences began to call themselves EWOC's for short. The acronym stands for the Educators of Weather, Oceans and Climate.

This presentation features highlights of the EWOC Conference in Madrid, Spain in July of 2003. Special emphasis will be on K-12 educational initiatives in meteorology and oceanography currently being implemented in classrooms around the world.

2. GOALS AND FOCUS

The VI International Conference on School and Popular Meteorological and Oceanographic Education met at the Universidad de Madrid Europa from July 7-11, 2003. Global participation and understanding of topics focused on the following objectives:

- Promoting Math and Science Education through Meteorology and Oceanography
- The Role of Mass Media in Meteorology and Oceanography
- Meteorology and Oceanography in National Curricula

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- Meteorology and Oceanography on the Internet
- Teacher Training in Meteorology and Oceanography
- International Cooperation Projects
- Hands on Workshop Activities
- Weather and Society

3. SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION

Sponsors of the EWOC Conference included the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), La Caixa, Instituto Nacional de Meteorologia (INM), European Meteorological Society (EMS), Royal Meteorological Society (RMS), Asciacion Meteorologica Espanola (AME), American Meteorological Society (AMS), Meteorologica, Revista del Aficionada a la Meteorology (RAM), Colegio Oficial de Fisicos and Meteored.com

EWOC participants presented workshop, oral presentations and educational posters for representatives of the global meteorological and oceanographic societies. A strong theme throughout the Conference was quality educational opportunities for K-12 teachers, and, for that matter, society as a whole. Accomplishments and technology projects were shared enthusiastically by representatives from the following countries: Spain, United States, Norway, Australia, Argentina, Cuba, England, Scotland, Germany, Canada, Venezuela, Japan, Singapore, Brazil, France, New Zealand, and Mexico. Also represented were middle and high school students who presented a wealth of successful and entertaining programs. Among them were web-sites, weather-data projects and tornado chasing adventures. During coffee breaks and social events interpreters were kept busy translating ideas for continued interaction and communication between countries.

4. SUMMARY

Extensive utilization of the World Wide Web continues to provide opportunities for interaction and collaboration between EWOC participants. The sharing of web sites from the global community promotes growth in not only meteorology and oceanography but the exchange of data, ideas and sharing of cultural experiences. The next International Conference on School and Popular Meteorology and Oceanography is scheduled for July of 2003 in Boulder, Colorado. Our own Dr. Susan Avery, President-elect of the American Meteorological Society, will play a major role in assuring EWOC's that the United States will continue to be a leader in this major global initiative.