

Bjerknes Times

Tuesday, 4 July 2006

No. 10 Week no. 27

Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research

Allégaten 55, 5007 Bergen

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

What's cooking?

Summer forecast

We have just finished organising the 4th Lead Author meeting for IPCC Working group 1. The meeting was very successful, and thanks to the dedication of Tordis, who has done a superb job with the meeting, other helpers from the secretariat, the IPCC staff and not least the Solstrand Hotel. We gave the visiting scientists the best possible venue for finishing the next IPCC-report. Nice weather also played a noticeable role, and the "myths" about continuous rain here were given a major blow. On the contents of the next report, we are not allowed to say much before it has been agreed and published on February 2 next year. Nevertheless, I believe the next IPCC report will be a strong document, with stronger confidence in key conclusions and a lot of new material on climate changes compared to previous reports. The meeting gave the BCCR a very good exposure internationally and via the media here in Norway. Jill had a lot to do in her new job as responsible for media relations and managed this very well.

The ranking and short-listing of proposals for IPY funding was just announced a few days back. The outcome was a mixed blessing. We are involved in a number of projects on the list, and for the BCCR the result is not bad, with projects both in the Arctic and Antarctic listed, both experimental work and paleo-projects. However, since the CARE-proposal was not short listed, we miss the best opportunity to organise a major IPY campaign from Bergen. Apparently the reviewers did not feel comfortable with the size and ambitions of CARE, with the result that the most comprehensive and capable Arctic Climate research community will not be drawn upon for the national IPY activities. This is very unfortunate.

We now have to wait for the final funding of the IPY which will be announced in early October, and for the outcome of the NORKLIMA call which we know about in November.

I wish to thank all BCCR personnel for their endurance and dedication during the many months of proposal writing this semester and wish you all welcome back to our real activity - doing science - after a well deserved summer vacation!

Best wishes

Eystein

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION THE LAST 25 YEARS!!

The right person at the right time!

Eystein Jansen has now been an employee at UoB for 25 years and his colleagues at the Earth Sciences Institute would like to take this opportunity to come with a "Mid-term evaluation" in the Bjerknes Times.

Eystein started his academic career as a student activist in the 1970s and those of us that can remember that far back, thought that he was more involved with participating in various demonstrations against "the well established" than thinking about climate changes and deep-water circulation

during the ice age. There wasn't very many of us that were visionary enough to predict that he would one day end up as the director for a not so unimportant public company and in addition, take over a whole bunch of "proletarians" as his following. For us "havstriler" (coastal hillbillies) with a "Christian" and conservative upbringing, it was difficult to understand and we assumed that the police surveillance services had him written in their black book. But that's history, and I believe that there are many, if not all, who are glad for that.

The opportunity presented itself when an available position as a research assistant was announced in 1981 at the Geological Institute, Department B. They were going to establish a national oxygen isotope laboratory for stratigraphic studies. It seemed that Eystein in spite of his active political engagement for a more just society also had geological interests and ambitions for a scientific career. It cannot be denied that some of the more conservative groups in the scientific staff at the institute were sceptical, if not to say against that this "demagogue" should get such an important position. Even though fear for an armed revolution was great at this time, Eystein was employed and the seeds that would develop into the Bjerknes Centre were planted.

Thanks to his persistent contribution, the laboratory came into full operation already in 1983, and he led the operation until the year 2000. The many analytical results done per today's date have now resulted in hundreds of scientific projects. He has himself managed to publish more than 80 scientific publications and we predict that there are more in the waiting. The global perspective, and especially the deep-water circulations role, has been a trademark in Eystein's career. This activity has without a doubt been a contribution to that Bergen afterwards has received the reputation as an internationally known research group in the field of quarter geology and paleoclimate.

Bjerknes Centre - a milestone

The largest achievement is of course, the establishment of the Bjerknes Centre at the start of a new millennium. Eystein has played a decisive main role, from the planning stage to the finished product as it is today. As geologists, we are also proud over that this field of research should play such an important role in the establishment of an interdisciplinary climate centre. But it is first and foremost Eystein as a socially engaged scientist, who should have the honour. Colleagues at the Earth Sciences Institute thank you for the great contribution you have made so far and even though you are occupied with the future, we hope that you will still send some thoughts back to the ice age where it all started.

John Inge Svendsen

WORKSHOP ON ARCTIC WEATHER EXTREMES IN BERGEN

A workshop on Arctic Weather Extremes was held in Bergen the 19-20th of June hosted by the Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research. 30 scientists from Denmark, UK, Germany, USA, Canada and Norway attended the workshop which was sponsored by Statoil and organized by Erik Kolstad at BCCR. In addition to Erik, I. Barstad, N.G. Kvamstøl, I. Kindem, D.J. Steinskog, A. Sorteberg, S. Grønås,

J. Bakke and A. Nesje participated in the workshop. The aim of the meeting was to get share information on forthcoming International Polar Year (IPY) projects and form a working group to provide a synthesis paper on the current knowledge of Arctic Weather Extremes.

The workshop started with Erik, Asgeir and Idar taking the foreigners on a Norway-in-a-nutshell trip on Sunday evening. The official workshop started with five open talks on different aspects of weather extremes given by Erik, David Stephenson (UK), Mel Shapiro (US), Ron Steward (Canada), Sara Pryor (UK) and Børge Kvingedal (Statoil). Then closed sessions which included talks on synoptic storms (Hodges, Sorteberg, Zhang, Grønås), extreme winds (Barthelmie, Moore, Heinemann), polar lows and mesoscale cyclones (Noer, Bracegirdle, Renfrew, Kolstad), sea ice extremes (Skeie) and reconstruction of past extremes (Nesje, Bakke). In addition, there were group session and plenary discussion on the outline and ideas to an extreme weather synthesis paper.

The work will be followed up through the Norwegian IPY-THORPEX project (if funded) and by Erik organizing the writing of a synthesis paper.

Many thanks to Tordis for organizing all the practicalities!

Asgeir Sorteberg

CARBOOCEAN SUMMER SCHOOL 2006

“Modelling of the marine carbon cycle from small to global scale”, Bergen, Norway, 18-25 June 2006

On Monday, 19.06.06 17 international and 4 national students arrived at GFI to attend the CARBOOCEAN summer school 2006. Most of them are associated with the ongoing Integrated Project “CARBOOCEAN” which combines the key European experts and scientific resources on marine carbon cycling through an integrated research effort (IP, Framework Program 6, funded with 14.5 mill€ over the period from 2005-2009). CARBOOCEAN’s aim is to determine the ocean’s quantitative role for uptake of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) since the correct quantification of this sink is a fundamental necessary condition for all realistic prognostic climate simulations. With respect to this, the second CARBOOCEAN summer school concentrated on the modelling of the marine carbon cycle from small to global scale and gave PhD students and Post-docs from 9 countries the chance to learn directly from five experts of the field: Marion Gehlen (LSCE, France), Dieter-Wolf Gladrow (AWI, Germany), Christoph Heinze (GFI, UiB), Reiner Schlitzer (AWI, Germany), and Christoph Voelker (AWI, Germany).

The CARBOOCEAN summer school lasted 5 days with each day divided into two parts, including a morning lecture and a practical/computing afternoon part. The main topics covered were:

1. Biogeochemistry of ocean C cycle (overview and biogeochemical OGCM)
2. Equilibrium and kinetics/Isotopes and diffusion reactions
3. Population models, ecosystem models/ecosystem model in action, fallacies and improvements
4. Modelling the fate of marine particles (particle flux)
5. Combining data with models

Giving reference to the fact that the number of women in natural science and modelling is rather small, a mentoring and discussion session lead by the Marion Gehlen was added to Thursday’s schedule. The participants focused on the availability of childcare, encouragement and promotion of women to apply for new positions and having an equal number of women in interview panels. Since confusion about “the facts” relating gender issues/women in

science/(subconscious) discrimination seemed to exist, credit was given to the idea of inviting “gender experts”, e.g. a social scientist who does research on this issue, to the scientific institutes to mark the start of modified thinking and behaviour when it comes to recruitment of women in natural sciences. The participation of a female PhD student from the National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries of Egypt at the summer school was financed by the CARBOOCEAN project.

All talks and presentation will be made available on the CARBOOCEAN training web side (<http://www.carboocean.org>). The next CARBOOCEAN summer school 2007 will take place in Paris on the topic “Combining data and models - statistical analysis and data assimilation”. Contact: Christoph Heinze and Andrea Volbers (CARBOOCEAN international project office at UiB).

Andrea Volbers

BJERKNES IN THE NEWS

Verden trenger modige ledere, *Bergens Tidende* 29.06.06. <http://www.bt.no/lokalt/hordaland/article279568.ece>.

Dårlig klima for de fattige, *Bergens Tidende* 29.06.06. Interview with Eystein Jansen.

<http://www.bt.no/meninger/kronikk/article279566.ece>.

Følgefonna kan forsvinne, *NRK Hordaland* 29.06.06. Interview with Jostein Bakke.

<http://www.nrk.no/nyheter/distrikt/hordaland/1.658150>.

Viktig klimadokument, *Os og Fusaposten* 28.06.06. Interview with Eystein Jansen.

Er dels menneskeskapt, *Klassekampen* 28.02.06.

Hett på Solstrand, *Bergensavisen* 27.06.06.

FNs Klimapanel arbeidsmøte, *BTV* 26.06.06. Interview with Eystein Jansen. <http://www.bt.no/btv/>.

FNs Klimapanel arbeidsmøte, *TV2* 26.06.06.

FNs Klimapanel arbeidsmøte, *Vestlandsrevyen* 26.06.06.

Klimaekspertes samlet i Os, *NRK Hordaland* 26.06.06.

Vi har skylden for dårlig vær, *NRK Hordaland* 25.05.06. Interview with Eystein Jansen.

<http://www.nrk.no/nyheter/distrikt/hordaland/1.644421>.

Kampen mot vitenskapen, *Bergens Tidende* 25.06.06. <http://www.bt.no/meninger/kommentar/kobbeltveit/article278636.ece>.

Vi må gjøre noe nå, *Bergens Tidende* 25.06.06. Interview with Eystein Jansen. <http://www.bt.no/utenriks/article278638.ece>.

Jorda hetes raskt opp, *Nettavisen* 24.06.06. Interview with Eystein Jansen.

<http://www.nettavisen.no/verden/article668051.ece>.

Klima endrer seg raskt, *TV2 Nyhetene* 24.06.06.

Ingen tvil om alvoret, *Klassekampen* 24.06.06. <http://www.bjerknes.uib.no/filer/266.pdf>.

FNs Klimapanel arbeidsmøte, *NRK P2 Dagsnytt* 23.06.06. Interview with Eystein Jansen.

Finner alderen til marine sedimenter, forskning.no 23.06.06. Hilary Birks and Jan Mangerud. <http://www.forskning.no/Artikler/2006/juni/1150703330.43>.

GUEST LECTURE

Monday, July 31 at 10:15, Auditorium East wing, Geophysical Institute

Shlomit Paz, University of Haifa, Israel, “The West Nile outbreak in Israel”. <http://nile.uib.no/events/index.php>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Celebration! Unifob has the pleasure of inviting all its employees to Unifob’s 20th anniversary celebration, 6 September 19.00 at Fløyen Folkerestaurant. Registration deadline: 12 July at <http://www.unifob.uib.no/Unifob20>.