

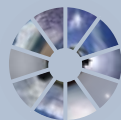
www.rmets.org

Key to the cloud abbreviations used in this booklet

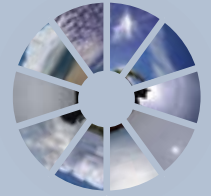
Ci - Cirrus
Cc - Cirrocumulus
Cs - Cirrostratus
As - Altostratus
Ac - Altocumulus
Sc - Stratocumulus
St - Stratus
Ns - Nimbostratus
Cu - Cumulus
Cb - Cumulonimbus
TCu - Towering Cumulus

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Just some of
our highlights
from 2009



2009 in the

Royal Meteorological Society

In 2009 the Society launched its new Strategic Plan which involved a fundamental review of our role as the Professional and Learned Society for Weather and Climate. This Plan sets out a framework that enables us to have more flexibility to respond to the challenges we face in delivering the programme of work, facilitate greater collaboration with strategic partnerships, and demonstrates clearly how the Society is pushing the boundaries of modern meteorology, for the benefit of all. Inside is just some of our work in 2009 to deliver the goals we have set ourselves in our new plan. 2009 was also a memorable year for weather. At both ends of the year we saw widespread heavy snow, something we have not experienced since 1981. Spring and early summer were warm and dry, followed by the very wet weather of July and August, and the record-breaking deluge that caused destructive floods in Cumbria during November.

Inspiring

Cu

Professor Sir John Houghton, a past-President of the Society, was awarded the 2009 Albert Einstein World Award of Science. The award was in recognition of his pivotal role in the global research community, through his pioneering work on the remote sensing of the atmosphere from space, and his leadership in climate research and monitoring.

The Society Awards for 2009 were presented at the conference dinner held in the grounds of Mapledurham House and for the first time included a new IBM award for meteorological innovation.



Influencing

Ci

Amongst its other policy work, the Society held discussions on climate change with the President of Mexico and the Chinese Ambassador to the UK. It contributed to the review of DEFRA's scientific evidence programme, and met with Lord Chris Smith and Sir Michael Pitt on implementing the Pitt Review.

Prior to COP15, a communiqué from the Chief Executives of the UK's six leading environmental societies, including the Society, called for strong leadership and urgent action from all attendees in Copenhagen, in agreeing a new framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Collaborating

Cb

The national meetings are a key activity of the Society, facilitating communication and collaboration between members, the wider scientific community and the public. Joint meetings with the Royal Society on UKCP09 and the European Meteorological Society on AMMA were held during the year – with the latter being presented in special issues of the Society's journals QJ and ASL. Topics for our Saturday meetings included Art and Skies, Aviation Safety and Weather and Sailing.

Educating

In March, the Society ran an Urban Heat Island experiment in Manchester, with the help of the Institute of Physics, Manchester University, Altrincham Girls Grammar School and media coverage from local TV and radio. Over 1000 temperature measurements were collected by the general public.

Climate 4 Classrooms.com is a joint initiative with the British Council, Royal Geographical Society and the Society in developing a website on climate change, for schools in the UK, China, Mexico and Indonesia.

The Society ran educational activities and workshops at the Big Bang, Cheltenham Science Festival and TechFest and was involved in the European MUSICC project developing resources on climate change for those with hearing and sight difficulties.



Cc

The quayside in Manchester

Sharing

Sc

The first Yorkshire Centre meeting took place in November at the University of Leeds. The centre has been a long time in coming, but it was worth the wait. Paul Hudson presented his thoughts on the latest science and challenges in tackling climate change.

Communicating

The Society, as always, had an active media programme during 2009 on television, national and regional radio and in many national newspapers. This also included presentations to European journalists at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, students at Westminster College School of Journalism, and on Voice of Young Science media panels.

St

Informing

Cs

The Society has launched a new academic book programme and an online journal on climate change (as part of the WIREs series) to promote cross-disciplinary discussion on weather and climate. You can sign up for free access to the new WIREs climate change journals at 'www.wiley.com/wires/climatechange'.



Connecting

TCu

In March the Society welcomed at its HQ, a delegation headed by the Director of Education and Training at the Chinese Meteorological Administration. The group included Deputy Directors from 10 of the Regional Meteorological Bureaus and the Deputy Director of the Chinese Satellite Meteorological Centre.

The formation of the new International Forum of Meteorological Societies and their first preparatory meeting took place in 2009. Representatives from over 30 meteorological societies, including the RMetS, took part in the meeting, to share ideas, experiences and resources.



Supporting

Ns

There were a number of changes in HQ staff throughout 2009. Susan Drew and Alison Hunter both retired, Sylvia Knight went on maternity leave with Rachel Fordham stepping in as interim Head of Education. Sue Snellgrove joined the team in February providing administrative support for meetings and conferences, Sarah Grintzevitch took up the new post Public Engagement Programme Manager in August and in December Georgina Lea joined the team as Publishing Assistant.

Leading

As

In 2009, the Society held its main and student conferences at the University of Reading. The main conference focused on the three themes of The Water Cycle, Predicting Hazards and Risk, and Ecosystems, Atmospheric Composition, Weather and Climate.



The 2009 Awards Ceremony

Workshops and poster sessions on the three themes ran each afternoon and reports are available on the Society's website, www.rmets.org, and will be published in 2010 in the Society's journal ASL.

In March the Society hosted a Weather Service Providers meeting drawing together a community from across the public and private sector to discuss issues of common interest.