

European Geosciences Union

**Geosciences Information for Teachers (GIFT) Symposium
Vienna, April 7-10, 2013**

« Natural Hazards »

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM AND APPLICATION FORM

The 2013-GIFT (Geosciences Information for Teachers) workshop will take place on April 8-10, 2013 during the General Assembly of EGU in Vienna Austria. The general theme of the workshop is « Natural Hazards!» and it will explore some of the complex relationship that exists between natural hazards and society.

Natural hazards are potential threats to humans that begin with and are transmitted through the Earth's natural environment, including the lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere and biosphere. Examples of natural hazards include earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis, mass wasting, floods, climate (severe storms, strong winds, droughts) and wildfires. Natural hazards do not just originate on Earth, but can also be extra-terrestrial, such as asteroids potentially hitting the Earth, and solar storms.

Both the causes and results of natural hazards provide a dramatic intersection between the physical and social sciences. Many disasters that occur are a complex mix of natural events and human processes, including political, social and economic. Financial losses due to natural hazards, and the impact of disasters on society, have both increased dramatically over the last couple of decades. All spheres of society are now touched to some extent by natural hazards, whether it involves loss of life and home, an increasing strain on country/global resources (particularly acute for developing countries) or the more removed observation of disasters via public media.

Scientists—both physical and social, policy makers, reinsurance companies, disaster managers, and the public themselves, have different ways for understanding and studying natural hazards. These range from mathematical equations, computer models, laboratory experiments, and many kinds of ground-based and satellite data, to interviews, philosophical constructs, compilation of many kinds of social sciences data, and ultimately policy. Here, in this workshop, with leading people in the broader natural hazards community, we will over the course of a week explore some of the more topical natural hazards issues currently facing society.

As in every GIFT Symposium, contributions by the attending teachers on particular “off-the-program” activities that they may have had in their classrooms are particularly welcomed, either as poster or oral presentations, even if their subject is not directly related to the theme of the workshop.

Also, a first step will be a guided visit to the Vienna Museum of Natural Sciences, on Sunday April 7, 2013 afternoon, followed by a small reception as an ice-breaker event.

**Application to participate in the 2013 GIFT Teachers Symposium
EGU General Assembly April 8-10, 2013 Vienna Austria**

Natural Hazards

Grants are available to support teachers to participate in the 2013 Geosciences Information for Teachers (GIFT) Symposium at the 2013 European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly in Vienna, Austria. Selected teachers will receive a travel /hotel stipend and free registration to the meeting.

Participating teachers will be selected based on their teaching experience and a supporting statement from their school administration. Selected teachers will be expected to attend the entire workshop and submit a statement within 1 year after the workshop on their impression of the workshop and how they plan to use this experience in their future teaching activities.

To apply please submit the following information:

- Applicant name, contact information, E-mail address
- School name and address
- List the subjects you teach, and the ages of students
- The workshop will be conducted in English. Please describe your capability to understand and speak English.
- A description of any leadership activities you have taken at your school or in national educational activities (examples: training new teachers, developing curriculum, etc.).
- A letter of recommendation from the senior administrator in your school supporting your application (by attached pdf document).
- (Optional) There will be opportunities for teachers to present any creative science activities they have developed for their classrooms to other teachers at the workshop. These presentations can be in the form of a talk, a poster or a demonstration. If you would like to present a science activity, please provide a title and description for inclusion in the program.

**Applications should be received as soon as possible and in any case no later than
October 30, 2012.**

Send your application via email to any of the members of the Committee on Education (list at : (<http://www.egu.eu/media-outreach/gift/committee-on-education.html>) preferentially the one in your country if there is one, or to education@egu.eu