

Editorial news and events

Conferences

The European Association of Science Editors (EASE): Ninth General Assembly and conference took place in Kraków, Poland, on 15-18 June 2006.

Before presenting the programme and a short report on the meeting we would like to give our readers some details on the Association itself.

EASE is a non-governmental and not-for-profit organization operating exclusively for scientific and educational purposes. It was founded in 1982 in Pau (France) by the merger of two societies, the European Life Science Editors (ELSE) and European Association of Earth Science Editors (EDITERRA). EASE is an internationally oriented community of individuals from diverse backgrounds, linguistic traditions, and professional experience who share an interest in science communication and editing.

Despite the word EUROPE in the association's name, it welcomes members from every corner of the world. They can be found in 50 countries from Australia to Venezuela by way of China, Russia and many more.

EASE membership cuts across many disciplines and trades. Members work as: commissioning editors, academics, translators, publishers, web and multi-media staff, indexers, graphic designers, statistical editors, science and technical writers, authors' editors, journalists, corporate communicators, technical illustrators, proofreaders and production personnel. EASE is affiliated to the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) and the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). EASE co-operates with many other international editorial organizations. Let us just mention two of the world's most influential scientific literary organizations: the Council of Science Editors (CSE) and the North American Association of Earth Science Editors (AESE). The former was established in 1957 by the joint action of the National Science Foundation and the American Institute of Biological Sciences and, until 2000, was known under the name of the Council of Biological Editors (CBS).

EASE membership offers the following benefits that are worth citing after the text in the leaflet prepared by the organizers of the conference in Kraków:

- a quarterly journal, *European Science Editing*, featuring articles related to science and editing, book and web reviews, regional and country news, and resources,

- an electronic forum for exchanging shoptalk and ideas,
- a major conference every three years, in different countries,
- additional seminars and workshops on important topics,
- a Science Editors' Handbook covering everything from on-screen editing to office management, peer review, and dealing with media,
- unlimited possibilities for contacts not only with European science editors, but also from all over the world and from a wide range of disciplines,
- an opportunity to share problems and solutions with kindred spirits,
- good networking and contacts for freelancers,
- a unique learning community and supportive environment and
- leads for jobs, training and employment options.

EASE offers the opportunity to stay abreast of trends in the rapidly changing environment of scientific publishing, whether traditional or electronic. As an EASE member you can sharpen your editing, writing and thinking skills; broaden your outlook through encounters with people of different backgrounds and experience, or deepen your understanding of significant issues and specific working tools. And finally, in EASE we have fun and enjoy learning from each other while upholding the highest standards.

Nine major EASE conferences have been held to date. The new members of the Council elected for the term of 2006-2009 are:

Dr. Arian Poldermann (the Netherlands), President,

Dr. Linus Svensson (Sweden), 1 V-President,

Dr. Joan Marsh (UK), 2 V-President

and

Members:

Ms. Alison Clayson (France),

Prof. Ricardo Guerro (Spain),

Dr. Remedios Melero (Spain),

Dr. Eva Baranyova (Czech Republic),

Dr. Marie-Anne Laane (Estonia),

Dr. Volodymyr Lysenko (Ukraine),

Dr. Mercedes Piqueras (Spain),

Prof. Witold Zuchiewicz (Poland).

The topic of the Conference in Kraków "The Culture of Science Editing" was addressed in the following six plenary sessions:

- Cultural approaches to accessing and archiving scientific data (Chairman: Roderick Hunt, UK, with two lectures:

- “On lost data or good archives” and “Inaccessible science literature in Eastern Europe”
- Cultural effects of impact factors (Chairman: Edward Towpik, Poland) with two plenary lectures:
 - “Selective indexes” and “Open Indexing: An innovative approach to indexation and delivery of bibliographic data”
- Cultural consequences of electronic publishing (Chairman: Sir Ian Chalmers, UK) with two plenary lectures:
 - “The culture of Sharing – Open access to scientific literature” and “Open peer-review in the electronic age”
- Cultural differences in text editing and writing (Chairman: absent Elisabeth Heseltine, UK, was replaced by Elise Langdon-Neuner, Austria) with two plenary lectures:
 - “Western v. Eastern European Editing: Editors as Educators” and “Writing for Western and Eastern audiences”
- The culture of science translation (Chairman: Arjan Polderman, the Netherlands) with two plenary lectures:
 - “Editing science text translations: when to stop?” and „Translation for open – access journals”
- Communicating Science to Society (Chairman: Jenny Gretton) with two plenary lectures:
 - “Communicating science to researchers and practitioners: the role of systematic reviews” and “Communicating science to the general public”.

After each plenary session a plenary discussion with closing remarks was held.

The Conference program included two post-conference workshops: “Two roads to open access” and “Statistics for Journal Editors” sponsored by the Open Society Institute.

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