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PUBLICATION POLICY

The *ECMWF Newsletter* is published quarterly. Its purpose is to make users of ECMWF products, collaborators with ECMWF and the wider meteorological community aware of new developments at ECMWF and the use that can be made of ECMWF products. Most articles are prepared by staff at ECMWF, but articles are also welcome from people working elsewhere, especially those from Member States and Co-operating States. The *ECMWF Newsletter* is not peer-reviewed.

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A Decade of Newsletters

Bob Riddaway has been the editor of the *ECMWF Newsletter* for ten years. As this is his last issue as editor before leaving the Centre, I have invited him to reflect on the highlights and themes that have been covered in the newsletter during his period as editor.

Alan Thorpe

When I retired from the UK Met Office I applied for a part-time job at ECMWF, which included being editor of the newsletter. I was offered the job, but the then Head of Research, Philippe Bougeault, was concerned that I might only want to stay for a few years. I assured him that would not be the case. However, I never imagined that I would stay for ten years.

My first issue of the newsletter, in spring 2005, included two topics that have become increasingly important: reanalysis and monitoring of the global Earth-system. Developments in these areas have underpinned the recent agreement for ECMWF to operate the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) and the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S). The same issue of the newsletter covered topics that continue to play a key role in developments at ECMWF: use of satellite data and ensemble-based predictions.

Later issues of the newsletter have included many articles about the effective use of satellite data such as GPS radio occultation measurements, and microwave and cloud-affected infrared radiances. Also the development of the data assimilation system has been recorded and in spring 2008 there was an article celebrating ten years of operational production of 4DVAR analyses. Later issues covered important developments such as the introduction of the Ensemble of Data Assimilations.

The many operational upgrades of the Integrated Forecasting System (IFS) have been described. For example, the impact of increasing the resolution, both in the horizontal and the vertical, of the high-resolution forecast (HRES) has been a constant theme. In addition, the improvements in parametrization, especially of cloud, precipitation and convection, have improved the quality of the forecasts. Developments in the ensemble forecast (ENS), both for the medium-range and longer timescales, have also been covered and the winter 2012/13 edition had many contributions celebrating 20 years of ensemble prediction at ECMWF.

As well as the scientific developments, the newsletter has covered the improvements in technology that underpin the Centre's activities. These include the enhancements to the High-Performance Computing Facility (HPCF) and the implementation of the next-generation Regional Meteorological Data Communication Network (RMDCN). Also improvements in Metview have been described, along with ways of presenting NWP output in a way that enhances its value to users (e.g. the Extreme Forecast Index).

In recent times, the newsletter has put more emphasis on describing how ECMWF output has given good indications of the likelihood of extreme weather events. Also there has been increased coverage of ECMWF's contributions to a variety of EU-funded projects and the benefits of working in partnership with other international organisations. Of course there are many other interesting topics that have been covered, but there is not space to mention all of them.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the newsletter. During my period as editor I have always had positive responses to any suggested changes, and this has added enormously to the enjoyment of the job. I now look forward to receiving the newsletter and keeping abreast of the scientific and technical developments that make ECMWF the world-leading NWP centre.

Bob Riddaway