



Geoscience Information for Teachers (GIFT) workshops at the EGU General Assemblies

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GIFT workshops are a two-and-a-half-day teacher enhancement workshops organized by the EGU Committee on Education and held in conjunction with EGU's annual General Assembly.

The program of each workshop focuses on a different general theme each year. Past themes have included, for example, "The Polar Regions", "The Carbon Cycle" and "The Earth From Space". The workshop combines scientific presentations on current research in the Earth and Space Sciences, given by prominent scientists attending EGU General Assemblies, with hands-on, inquiry-based activities that can be used by the teachers in their classrooms to explain related scientific principles or topics. Participating teachers are also invited to present their own classroom activities to their colleagues, even when not directly related to the current program.

The main objective of these workshops is to spread first-hand scientific information to science teachers of primary and secondary schools, significantly shortening the time between discovery and textbook. The GIFT workshop provides the teachers with materials that can be directly incorporated into their classroom, as well as those of their colleagues at home institutions. In addition, the full immersion of science teachers in a truly scientific context (EGU General Assemblies) and the direct contact with world leading geo-scientists are expected to stimulate curiosity towards scientific research that the teachers will transmit to their pupils.

In addition to their scientific content, the GIFT workshops are of high societal value. The value of bringing teachers from many nations together includes the potential for networking and collaborations, the sharing of experiences, and an awareness of science education as it is presented in other countries. Since 2003, the EGU GIFT workshops have brought together more than 500 teachers from more than 20 nations. At all previous EGU GIFT workshops teachers mingled with others from outside their own country, dined together with the scientists, which provided a venue for rich dialogue for all participants, since the dialogues often included ideas about learning, presentation of science content and curriculum . . .

Programs and presentations of past GIFT workshop are available at (<http://gift.egu.eu/gift-symposia.html>). Since 2009, selected conferences are available for Web streaming.