

Professor Joseph P. Pichamuthu wins Vilho Väisälä Award

The World Meteorological Organization presented the 2006 Professor Dr. Vilho Väisälä Award to Professor Joseph P. Pichamuthu from India for the most outstanding research paper on meteorological instruments and methods for observation. The winning paper is entitled “Directional variation of visual range due to anisotropic atmospheric brightness”, and it was published in *Applied Optics*, Volume 44, No. 8, 1464–1468, March 2005. Mr. Pichamuthu is a Professor of Electronics and Communication Engineering at the M. Visvesvaraya Institute of Technology in Bangalore.

The award was made in recognition of Professor Pichamuthu’s work in the area of meteorological optical range (MOR) – fundamental in the safe landing of aircraft. Professor Pichamuthu developed a way to compute the true visual range in any direction under any weather condition.

The Professor Vilho Väisälä Award was established by WMO and Vaisala in 1985. The award consists of a diploma, a medal and a sum of US\$ 5,000. Professor Vilho Väisälä was an esteemed Finnish inventor and the founder and long-standing Managing Director of Vaisala. He set a prime example of what is achievable through talent and hard work. He also understood the importance of providing support to the leading research in the field. We continue to respect and promote similar values at Vaisala today. ■



The Vilho Väisälä award medal.

Vaisala participated in a WMO Climate Risk Conference

In July 2006, Vaisala participated in an international climate conference organized by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and co-hosted by the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI) and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI).

The theme of the meeting was Living with Climate Variability and Change: Understanding the Uncertainties and Managing the Risks. The meeting was held in Espoo, Finland.

Adaptation to climate conditions and management of climate-related risks is on the agenda as societies are becoming increasingly interdependent, the climate system is changing, and losses associated with climatic hazards are rising.

The conference reviewed opportunities and constraints in integrating climate risks and uncertainties into the main-streams of decision-making - in agriculture, water resource management, disease control, power generation and disaster mitigation.

The goal of the conference is to make substantial progress in the establishment of an operable agenda for climate related risk management, and to propose an enduring process for future work.



Conference guests at Vaisala reception.

Conference participants were drawn from many disciplines in both the private and public sectors, including mathematics, psychology, climate, agriculture, health, hydrology, sociology, governance, development, energy and environment.

Conference attendees visited the Vaisala headquarters in Finland to learn about Vaisala’s business. ■

Vaisala's 70th anniversary celebrations around the world

Vaisala celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2006. Office summer parties were organized for Vaisala personnel in Beijing, Birmingham, Boston, Boulder, Hamburg, Helsinki, Melbourne, Minnesota, Paris, Tokyo and Tucson. Fun and friendly themed parties each took on some local characteristics from around the world. ■



6th EMS Annual Meeting in Ljubljana

In September 2006, the European meteorological community got together at the 6th European Meteorological Society (EMS) Annual Meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The event consisted of a broad and open scientific conference with oral and poster presentations as well as symposia and special lectures. The 6th European Conference on Applied Climatology (ECAC)

was also held as part and partner of the EMS meeting. Vaisala participated in the exhibition held in connection with the conference.

In October 2007, the EMS Annual Meeting will be held in Madrid, El Escorial, Spain. ■



Radar experts met in Barcelona

Sigmat was one of the main exhibitors at ERAD's 4th European Conference on Radar in Meteorology and Hydrology, held in Barcelona in September 2006.

Over 300 weather radar researchers and operational experts from Europe and abroad attended the conference. Many experts visited the Sigmet exhibition stand to find out about the latest product developments. For example, the new polarimetric hydrometeor identification product known as IRIS HydroClass™ and IRIS™ on Google Earth™ were demonstrated live.

Participants also attended lectures by leading scientists in the field and participated in workshops. The workshops encouraged lively discussions around topics like "What can we expect from operational radar polarimetry?" Presentations were given on topics such as "On the Performance of NLFM Pulse Compression with Polarimetric Doppler Radar" and "Comparison of Pulse Compression and Whitening Transform Signal Processing".

Sigmat was also the proud sponsor of a dinner banquet held at the beautiful Xalet restaurant on top of Mount Montjuic. ■

Sigmat's stand at the European Conference on Radar in Meteorology and Hydrology.



Vaisala strengthens its office network

Vaisala strengthens its office network by establishing a representative office in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The company also enhances its presence in China by opening an office in Shenzhen.

The representative office in Dubai is Vaisala's first office in the Middle East. It will start operations at the beginning of 2007, and will initially focus on serving Vaisala's Aviation Weather customers in the region. The South China office in Shenzhen was opened in October. It is the first Vaisala office in China to handle both sales and procurement.

"Serving customers locally is one of the cornerstones of customer focus for us. Establishing an office in Dubai sends an important message to our Middle-Eastern customers about the fact that we are serious about business, and ready to invest in customer relationships," says CEO Kjell Forsén. "We have been present in China for ten years now. Our subsidiary Vaisala China Inc was established last year. Until now, we have concentrated on sales and service operations but the expanding Chinese markets now also offer us the opportunity to intensify our procurement activities," Forsén adds. ■

Vaisala 2006 South East Asia distributors' meeting

Vaisala arranged the third South East Asia Distributors' Meeting in Penang, Malaysia in November 2006.

The meeting agenda included presentations on Vaisala's Key Account Management, Vaisala Integrated Meteorological

Solutions, project financing and product news, as well as updates from different Vaisala business units. Participating representatives gave a market update on their country, and these produced lively discussions. ■



Contact the Vaisala News team

Marikka Metso
Editor-in-Chief

For subscriptions, cancellations, feedback and changes of address, please contact the Vaisala News team by sending an email to vaisala.news@vaisala.com

Thank you for your interest.

