

ECMWF joins tribute to Jean-François Geleyn



ECMWF took part in a special day of talks in tribute to the scientific career of Jean-François Geleyn, who was heavily involved in the general design of the first operational ECMWF model and developed cooperation between ECMWF and Météo-France and the ALADIN consortium.

Jean-François died on 8 January 2015.

In 'A Tribute to Jean-François Geleyn' on 6 February 2020 at the Toulouse International Conference Centre of Météo-France, ECMWF was represented by Director-General Florence Rabier, András Horányi, Marta Janisková and Filip Váňa. The [event web page](#) gives more information about Jean-François' career and his "unparalleled" impact on the current generation of numerical weather prediction (NWP) scientists.

Florence chaired a session on global modelling, in which Marta gave a presentation on physics developments for data assimilation. In the afternoon, András presented 'The influence of ALADIN cooperation on European level: from ALADIN to Copernicus', in which he showed the impact of ALADIN on European NWP cooperation in general and ECMWF and Copernicus in particular. He noted that there are currently 18 people at ECMWF who have an ALADIN background, almost all of whom are shown in the main photo. Jean-François showed great care for the people he worked with, as was evident from a hand-written letter he sent to András in 1991 with extremely precise details for travelling to Toulouse. Besides train and metro tickets, the letter included a phone card and instructions for calling the guard, local currency, and a photo to help András recognise him at the station.

"I think people enjoyed the letter of Jean-François and they were quite surprised that we are so many from ALADIN at ECMWF now," András said. "It was an emotional, but inspirational day, which paid proper tribute to the life and achievements of Jean-François."



András Horányi spoke of the impact of ALADIN on European NWP cooperation in general and ECMWF and Copernicus in particular.



A letter from Jean-François Geleyn to András Horányi ahead of his visit to Toulouse in 1991.