IEAGHG Information Paper 2015-1; GHGT-12 Feedback and Conference Statistics

As guardians of the GHGT series, IEAGHG rely on delegate feedback to guide us and ensure we are producing the conference that they want to attend and gain the most benefit from. We appreciate greatly the verbal comments received during the event as it is important for us to know what we are getting right as well as where there is room for improvement and progression. Each event is the culmination of 2 - 3 years meticulous planning and input by a great many people. The technical content is set very much by the subjects of the abstracts we receive and whilst we strive each year to make the keynotes and technical plenaries informative and relevant, we rely on the feedback to tell us if we have got this right.

In addition to the feedback received on-site, immediately after GHGT-12 a survey was sent to delegates covering the major areas of the conference. The responses received demonstrated success with the following areas receiving 'very good to excellent' scores: Overall organisation (72%); plenaries (82%); keynotes (88%) to name but a few. Once again the discussion panels proved very popular both in the attendance and the feedback and are cementing themselves in the conference programme as a means of presenting key and thought provoking subjects. Comments received have shown that perhaps we need to look to extend the time given to these to allow for more audience participation.

For the closing panel, we tried something new with the interactive element, whilst well received, it was also very evident that we needed a moderator to assist the chairman in picking questions to direct to the panel – a steep learning curve, but when planning GHGT-13, we will learn and hope to achieve the vision of making this panel session an essential, exciting part of the conference and not something that can be missed just to make the earlier flight home.

The conference dinner was a huge hit offering a true taste of Texas in a stunning location and brought out the inner cowboys (and cowgirls)! The conference app was a new addition, and incorporating the feedback it will return for GHGT-13, with improvements already in planning - including an earlier release with full programme update close to the event.

We have also been alerted to areas for improvement, are learning how to meet delegates' expectations and are determined not to rest on our laurels and take for granted the loyalty we receive from the CCS community in attending.

Statistics

With every conference comes a set of statistics that tend to get used to quantify the success of an event. For GHGT-12 we are very proud of the following impressive numbers:
- 1179 papers
- 341 orals
- 533 posters
- 1159 delegates
- 35 countries represented by delegates
- 3 keynotes
- 6 technical plenaries
- 71 technical sessions over 11 streams
- 6 discussion panels

There were a number of 1sts at GHGT-12 that also warrant a mention:
- 1st time interactive technology used at a GHGT conference
- 1st use of PosterinmyPocket app
- 1st proper use of conference app
- 1st pigeon (although you possibly had to be there for this one!)

Of course, these only tell the story of the 4 days during the conference and doesn't account for the effort and hours required to stage such an event. So, how many people does it take to create a GHGT conference?
- 142 session chairs
- 131 expert reviewers
- 25 Technical Advisory Group (TAG) members
- 8 Technical Programme Committee (TPC) members
- 9 Steering Committee (SC) members
- 10 local organisers
- 60 volunteer students
- Sea of technicians
- Army of caterers

We can't of course quantify the value of the conference in terms of new contacts made, agreements to collaborate in research projects that arise as a result of attendance, dissemination of knowledge through presentations, papers and proceedings. All we can say is people keep coming back and for us that is the ultimate recognition of a great event.

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