

World in Transition: Nordic Geological Winter Meeting 2026

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For the 37th time, the biennial Nordic Geological Winter Meeting (NGWM) brought together researchers from across the Nordic countries and beyond, representing a broad range of disciplines within the geosciences. The same country hosts the meeting once in ten years, and in Finland the honour of organising it alternates between Helsinki, Turku, and Oulu. This time, the meeting was held on 13–15 January 2026 in Turku at the Logomo cultural venue.

The event was organised by the Geological Society of Finland, with valuable support from the University of Turku and Åbo Akademi University. The meeting was attended by 565 participants from 31 countries (by affiliation) across five continents, making it the largest geoscientific event held in Finland to date. The programme included 329 oral presentations, 143 poster presentations, two plenary talks and an honorary lecture given by the Nordic Geoscientist Award winner.

The Federation of Finnish Learned Societies provided financial support for the event by awarding a grant intended to assist in the organization of international conferences. Further financial support for the meeting was received from the Mine Environment Management, the Smart Exploration Research Center and GeoUkko Oy, as well as fourteen exhibitors, among which were the Society for Geology Applied to Mineral Deposits (SGA) and the European Federation of Geologists.

The opening words were given by representatives of the organising committee: Esa Heilimo (professor at the University of Turku, chair of the organising committee) and Kaisa Nikkilä (university lecturer at Åbo Akademi University). The theme for the meeting was *‘World in Transition’*, illustrating the interdisciplinary and forward-looking nature of geosciences. Scientific talks were divided into 35 scientific sessions, covering a wide range of topics from the tectonic evolution of the Fennoscandian Shield and mineral systems for critical raw materials to applied geochemistry and geomicrobiology.

Two invited plenary lectures were held during the meeting. The first was given by Professor P. David Polly (Indiana University, USA). His presentation, *‘Clasts with minds of their own: new approaches to interactions between organisms and Earth systems’*, reviewed a field of palaeontology known as ecometrics, which focuses on functional relationships between organisms’ traits and their environments. The second invited plenary was given by Dr Julie Hollis, secretary general of EuroGeoSurveys. Her talk, *‘Geoscience as the Engine: Collaboration, Innovation, and Discovery in a World of Transition’*, emphasised the role of communication, collaboration, and inclusive scientific culture not just in geosciences, but in science in general.

At this meeting the Nordic Geoscientist Award was presented for the eighth time. The award is given to a Nordic geoscientist who, over the course of their career, has

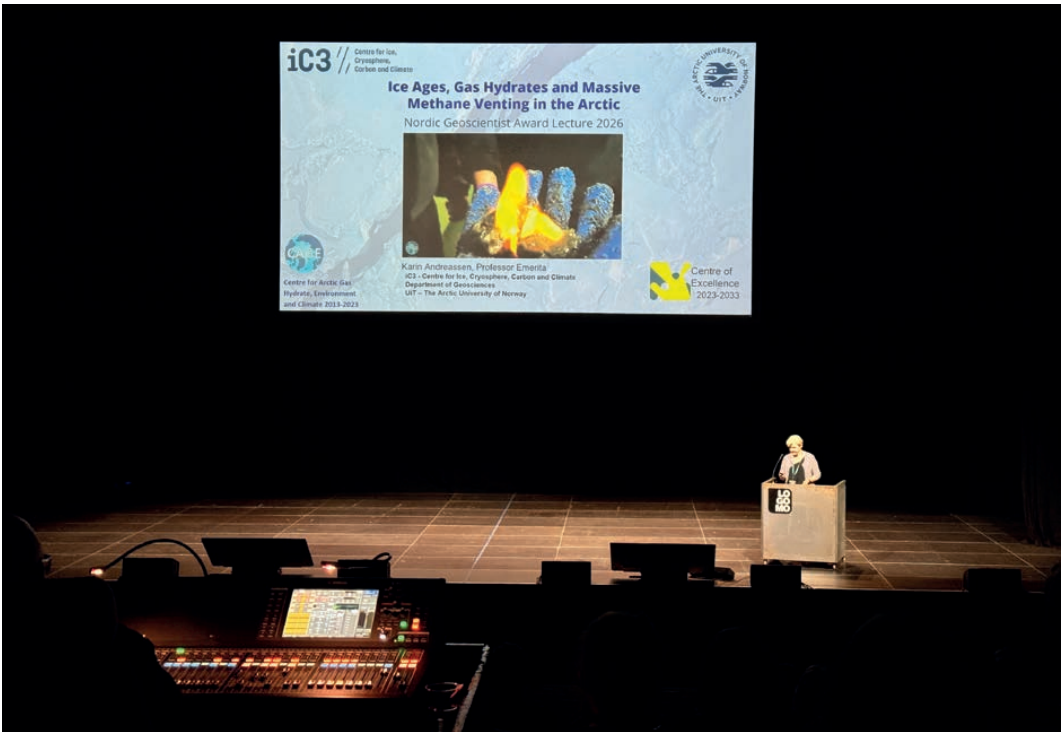


Figure 1. The Nordic Geoscientist Award 2026 winner Professor Emerita Karin Andreassen (UiT – The Arctic University of Norway) gave her award lecture in the Logomo hall on the third day of the conference. Photo: Juulia Kautto.

Kuva 1. Pohjoismainen geotieteilijä -palkinnon 2026 voittaja emeritaprofessori Karin Andreassen (Tromsø'n yliopisto, Norja) luennoi Logomo-salissa konferenssin kolmantena päivänä. Kuva: Juulia Kautto.

been strongly engaged with society and has contributed significantly to their field. Traditionally, the award winner is announced at the conference banquet, and the recipient gives an honorary lecture on the last day of the meeting. This time, the prize was awarded to Professor Emerita Karin Andreassen from UiT – The Arctic University of Norway (Fig. 1). Her presentation, *'Ice Ages, Gas Hydrates and Massive Methane Venting in the Arctic'*, focused on grounded ice sheets and their effects on methane emissions in the Polar North Atlantic Ocean.

The posters were displayed in the Logomo lobby area (Fig. 2), where participants could view them during the icebreaker party as well as during coffee and lunch breaks. In

total, 45 posters participated in the Best Poster competition. The prize for the best poster of the meeting was won by Louisa Bahr (Fig. 3), a doctoral researcher at the University of Hamburg, for *'Kinematic analysis of brittle shear faults generated by the Chicxulub meteorite impact, Mexico, and comparison to numerical modelling'*.

An opportunity to learn and discuss participants' own samples in more detail was provided through two pre-conference workshops, which also provided a short course on their topic. One was focused on orogenic gold systems: orogenic setting, structural controls, hydrothermal alteration, mineralisation styles and genetic models. The other was dedicated to metamorphic petrochronology, with the

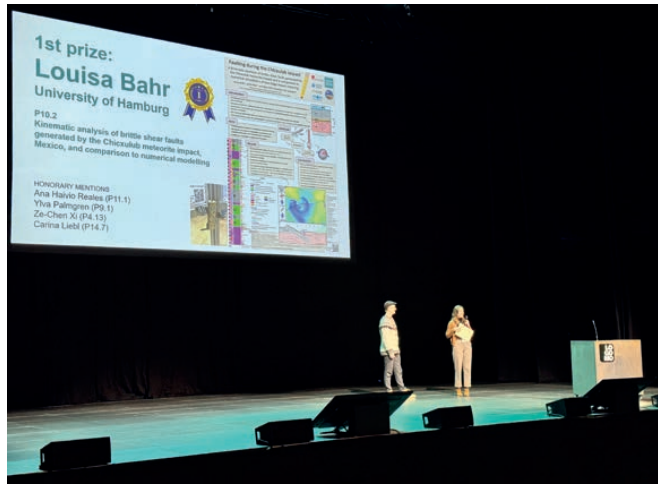
Figure 2. The first day of the conference was concluded by the icebreaker and poster session event where attendees could enjoy refreshments while discussing and exchanging ideas in a relaxed atmosphere. Photo: Juulia Kautto.

Kuva 2. Ensimmäisen konferenssipäivän päättäneessä tutustumis- ja posteritilaisuudessa vieraat saivat mahdollisuuden nauttia tarjoiluista, keskustella ja vaihtaa ajatuksia rennossa tunnelmassa. Kuva: Juulia Kautto.



Figure 3. Doctoral researcher Louisa Bahr from the University of Hamburg, Germany, (right) was awarded for her poster presentation during the closing ceremony. The award was granted by poster award committee member Eemu Ranta (left) from the University of Helsinki. Photo: Juulia Kautto.

Kuva 3. Väitöskirjatutkija Louisa Bahr (oikealla) Hampurin yliopistosta (Saksa) palkittiin parhaasta posteriesityksestä konferenssin päätöstilaisuuden aikana. Palkinnon jakoi palkintokomitean jäsen Eemu Ranta (vasemmalla) Helsingin yliopistosta. Kuva: Juulia Kautto.



aim of understanding the geological significance of age data and how modelling tools can be applied to interpreting metamorphism and the entire sample history.

The scientific programme was complemented by a social programme that helped participants continue discussions after long and productive days. The venues (restaurant Kåren and Brewery Restaurant Koulu) were chosen to highlight how closely the history of the city is linked to student life. And it would not be Finland had the farewell party not included a sauna!

The NGWM remains an important event for earth scientists across the Nordic

countries and international colleagues to meet, exchange new results, and develop ideas. While the NGWM has traditionally been a forum for academics of all career stages, geologists from industry were also strongly encouraged to attend.

Organising a meeting of this scale required more than a year of preparation and the contributions of many people including the organising and scientific committees; session conveners, who coordinated the sessions and reviewed abstracts; the plenary lecturers, the organising bureau 'Certia events'; and the many sponsors and exhibitors who helped make this event possible.

The relay for the next Nordic Geological Winter Meeting now passes on to Denmark. See you there, along with many new participants, in two years!

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Tiivistelmä

Maailma murroksessa: Pohjoismaiset geologian talvipäivät 2026

37. Pohjoismaiset geologian talvipäivät (Nordic Geological Winter Meeting) järjestettiin Turun Logomossa 13.–15. tammikuuta 2026. Tapahtuma järjestetään joka toinen vuosi, ja se kokoaa yhteen geotieteilijöitä eri osa-alueilta myös Pohjoismaiden ulkopuolelta. Talvipäiville osallistui tällä kertaa yhteensä 565 kävijää viideltä eri mantereelta, tehden siitä tähän mennessä suurimman Suomessa jär-

jestetyn geotieteellisen tapahtuman. Pääjärjestäjänä tapahtumassa toimi Suomen Geologinen Seura Turun yliopiston ja Åbo Akademin avustuksella. Järjestelykomitean puheenjohtajana toimi Turun yliopiston professori Esa Heilimo. Vuoden 2026 teema, 'maailma murroksessa', oli esillä vahvasti halki tapahtuman. Monitieteisiin sessioihin sisältyi suullisia esityksiä, posteriesityksiä ja näyttelyitä, joissa esiteltiin ajankohtaisia aiheita niin perustutkimuksen kuin soveltavankin tutkimuksen tiimoilta. Tieteenalan tulevaisuuden rooli ilmastonmuutokseen ja luonnonvaroihin liittyvissä kysymyksissä oli vahvasti läsnä myös tapahtuman kutsuttujen puhujien esityksissä. Ensimmäisenä puhujana kuultiin Indianan yliopiston (USA) professori P. David Polly, joka esitteli 'ecometrics' -pohjaista lähestymistapaa eliölajien ominaisuuksien ja ympäristön välisten suhteiden tutkimuksessa. Toinen kutsuttu puhuja, tohtori Julie Hollis (EuroGeoSurvey, pääsihteeri) puolestaan painotti puheessaan yhteistyön, kommunikaation ja yhdenvertaisuuden tärkeyttä tiedemaailmassa. Pohjoismaainen geotieteilijä -palkinnon 2026 voittaja emeritaprofessori Karin Andreassen (Tromssan yliopisto) taas kertoi palkintoluennollaan menneen jäätiköitymisen kytköksistä metaanipäästöihin Pohjoisella jäämerellä (kuva 1). Tapahtuman sosiaalisen ohjelman käynnisti tiistai-iltapäivänä järjestetty tutustumistilaisuus, jonka aikana vieraat vaihtoivat ideoita ja rentoutuivat posteriesitysten parissa Logomon aulassa (kuva 2). Virallinen illallinen järjestettiin historiallisessa ravintola Kårenissa, minkä jälkeen keskustelut jatkuivat tunnelmallisessa Panimoravintola Koulussa. Tapahtuman päättäjäisseremoniassa palkittiin Hampurin yliopiston (Saksa) väitöskirjatutkija Louisa Bahr parhaasta posteriesityksestä (kuva 3). Myöhään iltaan jatkuneen päättäjäisjuhlan aikana vieraille tarjottiin suomalaisen tapaan myös mahdollisuus saunoa. Seuraavan kerran Pohjoismaiset geologian talvipäivät yhdistävät geotieteilijöitä Tanskassa vuonna 2028.