

Agency Priorities: An Open Panel Discussion with Conference Participants

Friday 11 May, AM

**Representatives from DOE, EC,
ECMWF, ESA, JMA, NASA, NCEO, NOAA
and NSF**

Objective is to address the following topics:

- Current and future plans, programs and priorities for developing and/or fostering the use of reanalysis products
- Agency perspectives on associated opportunities and challenges to develop a common understanding
- Requirements of agencies/entities and the scientific community to fulfill their respective mission
- How the agencies and the scientific community can sustain each other in this process in a collaborative way

Outline:

- Main outcomes and conclusions of the sessions of the week by the conference Chair, Dr. Michael Bosilovich
- Each agency is then invited to address the above topics
- Presentations will then be followed by a discussion with conference participants

NCEO, UK

Dr. Ghassem Asrar, D/WCRP
on behalf of Dr. Alan O'Neill, NCEO, UK

- NCEO regards re-analysis as a crucially important activity, with which it is increasingly engaging through collaboration:
 - with ECMWF on atmospheric re-analysis,
 - with ECMWF and the Met Office on ocean re-analysis
- Despite its importance, re-analysis work, at least in Europe, has led a hand-to-mouth existence, and appears at times to be undertaken in the margins of "proper" activities at operational centres such as ECMWF

1. A securely funded, internationally coordinated program of re-analysis for the Earth system need to be undertaken as an ongoing strategic program, and that in Europe the Commission need to take this fully on board in working with the main delivery centers;
2. The challenge of the undertaking goes beyond simply funding the re-analysis work at the centers. NCEO strongly believes that it is the centers' interest to provide and support "test-bed re-analysis systems" so that the wider community can make a major contribution to the testing and development work with an eye on making a smooth transition to operational practice at the centers;

3. There needs to be a lot more work on the reliability of re-analysis products for "trend detection and attribution" and also for their use in derived products where quantities are derived from a model (constrained by observation) but not directly observed. The example par excellence is, of course, rainfall, but there are others;
4. Re-analysis can make an important contribution to guiding and prioritizing investment in observing systems, and the space agencies need ensure that they take full advantage of this information.