



WCRP Open Science Conference

Abstract Submission and Registration Now Open!

Individuals who wish to present their research results at the [WCRP Open Science Conference](#) are encouraged to [submit an abstract online](#). The detailed descriptions of the [Parallel and Poster Sessions](#) are now available. Groups can organize and submit [clusters of posters](#) addressing a specific research topic in one of the [existing program sessions](#). Financial support is available for students and early career scientists, [find out how to apply](#)

Science Highlights

Weather Extremes in a Changing Climate

A joint [WCRP and WMO press release](#) on climate extreme events was presented at CoP16 by Dr. G. Asrar, WCRP Director. [The observed climate anomalies](#) and the devastating weather events recorded in 2010 have further triggered the interest of the general public, governments, and media in knowing if we are likely to see more frequent and more intensive extreme weather events in the years to come. [Click here for information on WMO initiatives at CoP16](#).

Assessing the Risk of Climate Extremes

The WCRP-UNESCO workshop on "[Metrics and Methodologies of Estimation of Extreme Climate Events](#)" (Paris, France, September 2010) was attended by about 150 people from 32 different countries ([read press release](#)). The participants agreed on the importance of much improved observational datasets and model capabilities on climate variability and extremes, as well as on developing a climate information system that includes predictions and assessments of future changes in risk from extremes... [read more](#)

Exploring Polar Climate Predictability

The WCRP workshop on Seasonal to Multi-decadal Predictability of Polar Climate, held in Bergen, Norway, in October 2010, brought together about 80 experts to identify predictable elements of polar climate on timescales from seasons to decades and centuries.... [more](#). WCRP also co-sponsored the [WWRP/THORPEX](#) workshop on the improvement of weather and environmental prediction in Polar Regions, which took place in Oslo, Norway, 6-8 October 2010. The main outcome of these workshops was the establishment of a basis for an IPY legacy project as a component of the Global Framework for Climate Services, which is intended to foster cooperative international research and development efforts to improve high impact weather, climate, and environmental prediction capabilities for the Polar Regions (the report will be available on line as soon as it is finalized).

WCRP Sea Ice Historical Forecast Project

A new experiment has been launched as part of the [WCRP Climate-system Historical Forecast Project](#) coordinated by the Working Group on Seasonal to Interannual Predictability (WGSIP). The [Sea Ice Historical Forecast Project \(Ice-HFP\)](#) consists of a set of multi-model sensitivity experiments designed to explore the effects of sea ice in seasonal prediction systems, and in particular the influence of proper initialization of sea ice on atmospheric circulation... [more](#)

Advancing Subseasonal-to-Seasonal Predictions

Increased collaboration between [World Weather Research Programme \(WWRP\)](#) and WCRP is timely for developing and applying new forecast and diagnostic products to societal needs. In a recent [article published in BAMS](#), the scientists associated with these two programmes describe the four main areas of collaboration. This joint effort will provide great benefits to weather, climate and Earth-system prediction services worldwide.... [read more](#)

Toward a Seamless Approach to Weather and Seasonal Forecasting

WCRP has agreed to join forces with the [WWRP/THORPEX](#) in order to set up appropriate collaborative activities to carry out an international research initiative on sub-seasonal to seasonal forecasting. Toward this aim, a first [workshop on sub-seasonal to seasonal prediction](#) was held in Exeter, UK, in December 2010. The report will be made available on line as soon as it is finalized.

Earth-System Prediction: a 21st Century Challenge

The Earth-System Prediction Initiative (EPI) was proposed by International organizations and agencies, including [WMO](#), WCRP and [GCOS](#), in 2007 at the GEO Summit. New initiatives launched by those international bodies are beginning to coordinate activities that embrace components of EPI. Find out more about this grand challenge in a [recent article published in BAMS](#).

New Wiki Site on Reanalyses Intercomparison and Observations

The [wiki site](#) provides information on the reanalysis datasets created at different climate/weather research centers worldwide. It also provides a forum for discussion of the reanalysis products and other observations. This is an activity carried out in collaboration with [ACRE](#), [GCOS](#) and WCRP, under the auspices of WCRP Observation and Assimilation Panel ([WOAP](#)).

Atlas of Extremes for the Americas

The CLIVAR Variability of the American Monsoon Systems (VAMOS) Working Group on Extremes, lead by Dr. S. Schubert (NASA) and Dr. I. Cavalcanti (CPTEC), has created a [webpage](#) that displays the rainfall characteristics for the last three decades over the Americas. The Atlas includes the geographical distribution and time series of climatology, rainfall frequency, and temporal variation of monthly precipitation in terms of the Standard Precipitation Index (SPI)... [go to the Atlas](#)

Framework for Assessing Operational MJO Forecasts

A recent article published in BAMS provides an overview of the coordinated framework for the comparison of Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) forecasts. Ten worldwide operational forecast centers are adopting the diagnostic and skill metrics that were developed by the U.S. CLIVAR MJO working group and the International CLIVAR Project. [Read the article](#)

Network on Stochastic Parameterization and Modelling

An informal network for those interested in Stochastic Parameterization and Modelling has been launched. It consists of an unmediated email list where information on publications, conferences or general opportunities in this field of research can be posted. This forum is open to all interested participants. A [subscription form](#) should be submitted in order to join the list.

News

WCRP Highlights at COP-16: SBSTA-33 and Observation for Climate

WCRP was invited to contribute to the side events organized by WMO and [UNFCCC](#) during COP16. One event was part of the ongoing research dialogue held under the [Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice \(SBSTA\)](#) aiming at facilitating the provision of emerging scientific findings and research outcomes on climate change to the Parties... [more](#).

GCOS in partnership with its sister programmes (including WCRP) organized a side event focused on the need for climate observations and the critical role they play in developing adaptation strategies, managing climate risk, and designing mitigation policies... [more](#)

Celebrating 20 Years of GEWEX activities

The latest issue of the GEWEX Newsletter commemorates the lifetime of the GEWEX project from its inception in 1980 till the 2nd Pan-GEWEX Science Meeting in 2010. In its 20 years of existence, GEWEX has, and continues to provide its unique contributions in global water cycle and energy studies. [Read more...](#)

NSF Call for proposals for CMIP5 analysis

The US National Science Foundation is accepting proposals for one-year projects to analyse the output of CMIP5 in anticipation of the IPCC AR5. [Click here](#) to get more information on the NSF call. Together with model output, some selected observational data sets will be available from [PCMDI data portal](#). These include a number of satellite data sets developed by NASA/JPL specifically designed for CMIP5 evaluation.

Call for Students Applications to NCAR Advanced Study Program

Graduate students are invited to apply for the [NCAR ASP Summer Colloquium](#) on Statistical Assessment of Extreme Weather Phenomena under Climate Change. This three-week course will be held at [NCAR](#), Boulder, Colorado, USA, during 6-24 June 2011. Embedded in the training course, there will be a research colloquium designed to explore science frontiers. The [US CLIVAR](#) project is providing focus for the research agenda on extremes.... [more](#)

2011 NDACC Symposium: First Announcement

An International Symposium celebrating 20 years of global atmospheric research enhanced by the Network for Detection of Atmospheric Composition Change (NDACC) will be held in the Reunion Island, France, on 7-10 November 2011... [read more](#)

Training Young Scientists to Use Seasonal Predictions for Applications in Latin America

WCRP co-sponsored an [IAI Training Institute](#) on the Use of Seasonal Predictions for Applications in Latin America that took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 2-13 August 2010. Experts of WCRP/CLIVAR [WGSIP](#) and [VAMOS](#) panels lectured about global models, regionalization and verifications of seasonal predictions... [read more](#)

WCRP Focus on ENSO Cycle

While a strong La Niña condition was developing in the equatorial Pacific Ocean (see [WMO update](#)), WCRP organized a workshop with a specific focus on [trends, teleconnections and impacts of ENSO in South America](#) (Guayaquil, Ecuador, October 2010)... On the occasion of the release of the [WMO press note on ENSO condition](#) the director of WCRP, Dr. G. Asrar, was interviewed by Reuters on the progress of global seasonal climate forecasts... [read more](#)

Newsmakers

International Water Prize 2008-2010 Awarded to Prof S. Sorooshian

Professor Soroosh Sorooshian has been awarded the [prestigious 2008-2010 Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water](#). Prof Sorooshian served as chair of GEWEX from 2000 to 2009. WCRP wishes to join the science community in congratulating him for the well-deserved recognition.

Welcome to the New Members of the WCRP Science Steering Groups

New appointed leaders and members of WCRP International Projects' Scientific Steering Groups, Working Groups and Panels will help guide the development of the WCRP scientific strategy and implementation for this decade. [Find out who they are....](#)

Thank you and Farewell to CliC Director

In December 2010 Dr. Daqing Yang returned to the University of Alaska, USA after three years of serving as the Director of the CliC International Project Office (CIPO). During Daqing's tenure CliC prepared its part of the WCRP Implementation Plan 2010-2015, started several new initiatives, and agreed on its long-term objectives. WCRP would like to thank Daqing very much for his contribution to all these developments and wishes him every success in his new endeavours. The post of Director of CIPO which is located at the Norwegian Polar Institute in Tromsø, Norway, will be soon advertised.

Publications

Setting Priorities for the Effective Generation of Regional Climate Information

WCRP convened a [workshop in Lille, France, in June 2010](#), to bring together scientists generating regional climate information with the community of researchers engaged in climate impacts, vulnerability and adaptation. The [presentations](#) and discussions identified the key science questions and associated research areas where coordination will deliver progress... [read the workshop report](#).

Assessment of Interseasonal to Interannual Climate Prediction and Predictability

This report is the result of deliberations by a committee of international experts appointed by the US National Academies. Many of the members of this committee are involved in WCRP panels and working groups, thus the identified research priorities and opportunities are shared by WCRP. For example, the report makes recommendations about the development of the tools used in forecasting and about specific research goals for improving understanding of sources of predictability...[read more](#)

ICSU Scientific Grand Challenges for Global Sustainability

As part of the ICSU [Earth-System Visioning](#), the international scientific community has identified five Grand Challenges to enable global sustainability. The [full details of the Grand Challenges](#) for Earth-system science have just been published in a report. On an article in Science, the task team overseeing the visioning process calls for an unprecedented global initiative to deliver the knowledge that society needs... [read more](#)

Upcoming WCRP Events

Special WCRP Session at the 91st AMS Annual Meeting, 23-27 January 2011, Seattle, USA. [More](#)

SPARC/IGACO Meeting on Ozone Profile Assessment, 25-27 January 2011, Geneva Switzerland.

18th Session of the SPARC Scientific Steering Group, 2-5 February 2011, Pune, India. [More](#)

16th Session of the GCOS/WCRP Atmospheric Observations Panel for Climate (AOPC), 7-11 February 2011, Geneva Switzerland. [More](#)

WCRP Workshop on Drought, 2-4 March 2011, Barcelona, Spain. [More](#)

1st International Conference on CORDEX, 21-26 March 2011, Trieste, Italy. [More](#)

32nd Session of the WCRP Joint Scientific Committee, 4-8 April 2011, Exeter, UK.

WCRP-GCOS Sponsored Workshop on the Evaluation of Satellite-Related Global Climate Datasets, 18-20 April 2011, Frascati, Italy.