

**The 34 Session of the WCRP Joint Scientific Committee**  
 27-31 May 2013, Brasilia, BRAZIL

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The Joint Scientific Committee (JSC) of the World Climate Research Programme held its annual meeting in Brasilia, Brazil (27-31 May 2013). The meeting was hosted by the Brazilian Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI) that provided the meeting venue and facilities at the Carton Hotel Brasilia.

The JSC, consisting of 18 scientists from 15 countries, has as its mandate to provide scientific guidance for the WCRP. The members of the JSC are selected by mutual agreement between the three major sponsoring organizations (WMO, IOC-UNESCO and ICSU) and represent climate-related disciplines in atmospheric, oceanic, hydrological and cryospheric sciences.

This year meeting the meeting will review the progress and plans of the WCRP Grand Science Challenges that represent the major areas of scientific research, modelling, analysis and observations for WCRP and its affiliated Projects. The WCRP Grand Challenges are:

- Provision of skillful future climate information on regional scales
- Regional sea-level variability and change

- Cryosphere response to climate change
- Improved understanding of the interactions of clouds and radiation
- Past and future changes in water availability
- Science underpinning the prediction and attribution of extreme events

The WCRP intends to promote these Grand Science Challenges through community organized workshops, conferences and strategic planning meetings to identify high priority and exciting research that require international partnership and coordination, and that yield "actionable (useful) information" for decision makers.

Having the WCRP JSC meeting in Brazil has special meaning for the programme given the great strides that Brazil has made in climate research in partnership with the international community. A major focus of the WCRP Grand Challenges is support of the WMO Global Framework for Climate Services. In this regard, twenty years ago the concept of Climate Services was foreshadowed when the research advances in seasonal climate forecasting by the WCRP community were applied in the state of Ceará to help the drought-prone Nordeste respond to the deleterious impacts of drought in the region. Three of the WCRP Grand Challenges are directly relevant to problems such as drought including the provision of skillful future climate information on regional scales, past and future changes in water availability, and science underpinning the prediction and attribution of extreme events.