

**ORGANISATION
MÉTÉOROLOGIQUE MONDIALE**



**WORLD METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION**

COMMISSION DE CLIMATOLOGIE
BUREAU DU PRESIDENT

COMMISSION FOR CLIMATOLOGY
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

P. BESSEMOULIN
President

c/o World Climate Programme Department
WMO Secretariat
7 bis, avenue de la Paix
Case postale No. 2300
1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
Tel: Int'l + 41 (0) 22 730 81 11
Fax: Int'l + 41 (0) 22 730 81 81

METEO-FRANCE
Direction Générale
42 Av. G. Coriolis
31057 TOULOUSE Cedex, France

Tel : +33 (0) 5.61.07.86.80
Fax: +33 (0) 5.61.07.83.09
Mobile: +33 (0) 6.07.37.56.29
E-mail : pierre.bessemoulin@meteo.fr

Our ref: CLPA/CCA/CCI

GENEVA, 15 May 2009

Annex: 1

Subject: Circular Letter No. 4 of the president of CCI¹

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

This is my fourth circular letter, covering the period from January 2008 to April 2009.

Yours sincerely,

(Pierre Bessemoulin)
President
Commission for Climatology

To: Members of the Commission for Climatology (CCI-213)
Members of the CCI Management Group and OPAGs who are not members of the
Commission

cc: Presidents of technical commissions)
Presidents of regional associations)
Chairpersons of regional associations' working groups) (for information)
and regional associations' rapporteurs dealing with)
CCI-related matters)

¹ Distributed by the WMO Secretariat

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CLPA/CCA/CCI, ANNEX

Apart from its activity report component, my 3rd circular letter underlined several important events and/or decisions, which are still, of interest:

- The restructuring of the WMO Secretariat: the Fifteenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-XV) approved a new framework for the Result-based Management (RBM) of the Organization. This includes the implementation from 2008 of the Strategic Plan which defines three Top Level Objectives, five Strategic Thrusts and eleven Organization-wide Expected Results. The WMO Strategic Plan (WMO-No. 1028) is available at: http://www.wmo.int/pages/about/spla_en.html;
 - The follow up of IPCC AR4: several CCI members were elected in September 2008 to the new IPCC Bureau: Abdalah Mokssit (Morocco, as Vice-Chair), David Wratt (Australia) and Francis Zwiers (Canada). Congratulations to all of them;
 - The organization of a 3rd World Conference on Climate (WCC-3) from 31 August to 4 September 2009, which will probably have a deep impact on CCI structure and activities.
1. **WMO Executive Council sixtieth and sixty-first sessions (Geneva, 18-27 June 2008, and 2-12 June 2009)**

One important issue not mentioned in the previous circular letter because of too early stage of development at that time was the WMO Initiative to support adaptation to climate variability and change, which was endorsed by EC-LX. The initiative, with a focus on provision of services including climate prediction and related capacity building, was a WMO contribution towards the Nairobi work programme for adaptation as a response promoted by the UNFCCC.

EC-LX was the first meeting where the activities of the Organization were reviewed according to the new framework for the RBM management of WMO.

Climate relevant issues discussed under items 3.2, 3.5 and 4.2, included the possible discontinuation of CLIMAT TEMP messages, and the revision of the CBS Manual on the Global Data Processing and Forecasting System (GDPFS) (Vol 1, Global Aspects), in order to include the designation and functions of Regional Climate Centres (RCCs).

Proposals initially made by a joint CCI/CBS task team (21-22 January 2008) were adopted as provisional guidance at EC-LX (see http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/wcasp/seriespubs/documents/WCASP77_TD1479_E.pdf), and further reviewed and adopted with minor modifications by CBS at its fourteenth session at the end of March 2009. The revised document will be submitted to EC-LXI for final endorsement.

EC-LXI will also endorse the establishment of the two first RCCs, i.e. the Beijing Climate Centre (BCC) and the Tokyo Climate Centre (TCC).

As other presidents of technical commissions that have sessions planned after EC-LXI, I'll have to present a brief report at EC-LXI under agenda item 2.5, which is meant to review the priority issues to be addressed by the Commission at its upcoming session (CCI XV). Preparatory documents for EC are available at <ftp://ftp.wmo.int/Documents/SESSIONS/EC/EC-LXI/>

2. World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3)

The 3rd World Conference on Climate (WCC-3) will take place in Geneva from 31 August to 4 September 2009: see conference Website at http://www.wmo.int/wcc3/index_en.html

I am sitting on the WCC-3 International Organizing Committee (WIOC) as responsible person for:

- Parallel sessions 3 and 9 on « Understanding and Predicting Seasonal to Inter-annual Climate Variability » and « Climate Information for improved Planning and Management of Mega Cities », respectively; and
- The Regional and National contributions part of the Climate Services session (see call for abstracts at http://www.wmo.int/wcc3/abstracts_en.php).

The major expected outcome of the Conference is an international Global Framework for Climate Services (described in a Concept Note on the Global Framework for Climate Services not yet final) facilitating efforts to reduce the risks and realize the benefits associated with current and future climate conditions by incorporating climate prediction and information services into decision-making.

It is more than probable that outcomes of WCC-3 will strongly shape CCI activities and structure in the coming intersession.

3. CCI Management Group meeting (Geneva, 23-25 March 2009)

The meeting addressed the following issues:

- Report of the president and vice-president of the Commission;
- Review of actions arising from CCI Management Group and Implementation Coordination Team meetings;
- Review of decisions and actions arising from Cg-XV, EC-LIX, LX AND LXI, RAs (WGCM), ECWG-WCE, PTC (2007/2008), AND GCOS-Steering Committee;
- Report by OPAG Chairs on progress of CCI work programme;
- CCI Action on WMO-related and other international programmes;
- WMO Strategic Planning and implications for CCI;
- Preparations for CCI-XV and Technical Conference;
- Workplan, status, outcome, and proposed structure and actions for the future;
- Climate coordination, Climate Agenda, WMO Initiative on Adaptation.

See Meeting report at:

<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/cca/ClimateCoordinationActivitiesPreviousMeetings.html>

4. Upcoming fifteenth session of the Commission for Climatology (CCI-XV)

The fifteenth session of the Commission will take place in Antalya, Turkey, from 19 to 24 February 2010, just following the Technical Conference on “Changing Climate and Demands for Sustainable Development” (17-18 February 2010).

In order to save time, the CCI Management Group at its last meeting (Geneva, 23-25 March 2009) decided to establish an e-discussion of several important preparatory documents prior to the CCI session, following the procedure already in use by CHy (see <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/hwrp/chy/chy13/e-board.html>).

It is extremely important that national representatives to CCI contribute extensively to these discussions, as well as to the Technical Conference, which will be used also as an open forum for discussions.

CCI MG discussed the CCI structure for next intersessional period. The guiding principles are the following:

- Results-Based Management;
- Results-Based Budgeting;
- Quality Management Framework;
- WCC-3 Outcome: Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS);
- Develop a set of well-defined and complimentary deliverables addressing key thematic thrusts;
- Devise and adopt a strategy to put in place the required mechanisms with time-bound commitments to the deliverables;
- Capacity building and Communication are in all OPACE's (Open Panel of CCI Experts).

It was proposed to keep with a CCI MG and ICT, and to establish the following four OPACEs:

- OPACE 1: Climate Data, Data Rescue and Data Management (focus on Regional and National needs and requirements);
- OPACE 2: Monitoring and Analysis of Climate Variability and Change;
- OPACE 3: Climate Products and Prediction Services;
- OPACE 4: Climate Applications for Adaptation and Risk Management.

Once formed, a few selected standing ETs that worked well during the last few years would be formed, perhaps one per OPACE.

All other teams would be ad hoc, created for a defined purpose and ending after that purpose has been achieved.

Cross-cutting activities with other Commissions should be considered. For example, drought monitoring and management could be in collaboration with CHy and CAgM.

Ad hoc CCI teams could be formed as necessary, for example to address potential concerns regarding the Global Framework on Climate Services which is expected to be the main outcome from WCC-3.

Finally, as you may know, a significant number of CCI officers will not apply again for age reasons. Candidatures for coordination work as well as for more technical work within the Expert Teams and/or Task Teams will be extremely welcome, having in mind the respective roles and responsibilities of CCI volunteers, and implicit need to meet one's engagements.

It is also essential for CCI that the four OPACE attract a large number of experts from all six regional associations. Gender balance is also an objective.

The WMO Secretariat will do its best to request Permanent Representatives with WMO to appoint relevant experts and for distributing the application forms as early as possible.

5. Important Meetings attended by president of CCI

Date/Place	Meeting	Main objectives/outcomes
21-22 January 2008, Geneva, Switzerland	CCI-CBS Inter-commission technical meeting on designation of RCCs	To develop the full set of amendments to the Manual on the GDPFS (Vol. 1, Global Aspects) that will support formal WMO designation, through CBS and CCI, of Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) and RCC-networks. See http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/wcasp/seriespubs/documents/WCASP77_T D1479_E.pdf
4-6 February 2008 Geneva, Switzerland	1 st meeting of WCC-3 International Organizing Committee	Organization of WCC-3. See http://www.wmo.int/wcc3/
18-20 February 2008 Geneva, Switzerland	Presidents of Technical Commissions meeting	Coordination between TCs and other WMO bodies See ftp://ftp.wmo.int/Documents/SESSIONS/TCs/english/2008/pdf/Report_PTC_2008.pdf
27-29 March 2008 Geneva, Switzerland	EC WG on Climate and Related Water and Environment Matters (former EC Advisory Group on Climate and Environment)	Advise EC on Climate, Water and Environment matters See http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/cca/documents/FinalreportECWGCWE-120May08.pdf
31 March-4 April 2008 Arcachon, France	WCRP Joint Steering Committee (JSC-29)	The JSC meeting had the aim to discuss progress in implementing the WCRP Strategic Framework 2005-2015 through its projects and cross-cutting activities and to determine future directions beyond this period.
8-10 April 2008 Honolulu, Hawaii, USA	WMO CLIPS Workshop on Communicating about ENSO: Toward Developing a Common Understanding (with ET 3.3)	See presentations at ftp://dossier.ogp.noaa.gov/WMO-CLIPS-ENSO-WORKSHOP/
13-16 May 2008 De Bilt, The Netherlands	ETCCDI (ET 2.1) Workshop on Extremes in a Changing Climate	See presentations at http://www.clivar.org/organization/etccdi/etccdi3/meeting.php Draft Guidelines on Extremes in a changing climate written by A.M.G. Klein Tank, F. Zwiers and X. Zhang are under review
18-27 June 2008 Geneva, Switzerland	WMO Executive Council (EC-LX)	Overall management of WMO. See http://www.wmo.int/pages/governance/ec/ec_docs_en.html
25 June 2008 Geneva, Switzerland	Informal Meeting of Presidents of Regional Associations and Presidents of Technical Commissions (I-PRA/PTC)	Coordination between Presidents of Regional Associations and Technical Commissions

Date/Place	Meeting	Main objectives/outcomes
3-5 September 2008 Geneva, Switzerland	2 nd meeting of WCC-3 International Organizing Committee	Organization of WCC-3. See http://www.wmo.int/wcc3/
14-17 October 2008 Geneva, Switzerland	16 th GCOS Steering Committee	Management of GCOS. See http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/gcos/Publications/GCOS-124.pdf
28-30 October 2008 Geneva, Switzerland	3 rd meeting of the Inter-Commission Task Team on Quality Management Framework (ICTT QMF)	Implementation of QMF within WMO. Development of Technical Regulations Vol 4 on Quality Management completed and submitted to EC-LXI for endorsement. See http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/QMF-Web/Meetings.html
17-21 November 2008 Vienna, Austria	3 rd Meeting on the IAEA Safety Guide DS 417 on Meteorological and Hydrological Hazards in Site Evaluation for Nuclear Installations	Update this reference Safety Guide which was requested by several WMO Members (ongoing)
8-11 December 2008 Guayaquil, Ecuador	1 st Workshop on Climate Watches in RA III	The objectives of the workshop were to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Address the need for climate watches in the Region, - Review the status of climate monitoring and long range forecasting capabilities at regional and national level, - Review and discuss climate watch showcases from the Region and from abroad, - Work on tailoring the WMO guidelines on climate watches to the Region needs, - Recommend best practices for the Region in issuing climate watches, - Recommend best strategies towards users of climate watches, - Develop an action plan to implement climate watches at national and regional level, - Recommend a follow-up mechanism on the implementation of climate watches. Presentations at the meeting available at: http://www.fimcm.espol.edu.ec/tallerClimatico/archivos.html Proceedings of the workshop will be published in 2009
2-4 February 2009 Geneva, Switzerland	Presidents of Technical Commissions meeting	Coordination between TCs and other WMO bodies See ftp://ftp.wmo.int/Documents/SESSIONS/TCs/english/2009/final_ptc_09.pdf

Date/Place	Meeting	Main objectives/outcomes
11-13 February 2009 Geneva, Switzerland	EC WG on Climate and Related Water and Environment Matters (ECWG CWE)	Advise EC on climate, water and environment matters The ECWG CWE conducted a review of the World Climate Programme (WCP) and Climate Agenda, and made important proposals to EC-LXI in terms of evolution of WCP and coordination of climate activities within the UN system See http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/cca/documents/FINALREPORTECWGCWE.pdf
11-13 March 2009 Toulouse, France	ET 1.1 expert meeting on WCP requirements for Metadata	Objectives of the meeting were to : - Review Current Status of the WIS implementation and WMO Core Metadata Profile, - Review WMO Metadata and Data Representation, - Focus on Technical Developments for advancing ET 1.1 tasks on metadata, - Review other ET 1.1 tasks.
16-18 March 2009, Bonn, Germany	3rd meeting of WCC-3 International Organizing Committee	Organization of WCC-3. See http://www.wmo.int/wcc3/
23-25 March 2009 Geneva, Switzerland	CCI Management Group	CCI Coordination. Preparation of CCI-XV. http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/cca/ClimateCoordinationActivitiesPreviousMeetings.html
31 March- 3 April 2009 Vienna, Austria	4 th Meeting on the IAEA Safety Guide DS 417 on Meteorological and Hydrological Hazards in Site Evaluation for Nuclear Installations	Review and Update this reference Safety Guide (ongoing). One chapter on climate change has been added.
6-9 April 2009 Univ. Maryland, USA	WCRP Joint Steering (JSC-30)	The Joint Scientific Committee of WCRP, together with representatives of its sponsors and partners, discussed recent accomplishments in global climate research and identified opportunities and challenges in advancing climate prediction and our understanding of human impact on climate. In addition, ideas were presented for a new post-2013 structure for WCRP.
15-16 April 2009 Geneva, Switzerland	COST 730 Action final meeting	Develop a Universal Thermal Climate Index (UTCI) See http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/news/index_en.html

Recent WCP Publications

WCASP 77 TD 1479 Report of the CCI/CBS Intercommission Technical Meeting on Designation of Regional Climate Centres (Geneva, Switzerland, 21–22 January 2008)

WCASP 76 TD 1470 Report of the Meeting of the Working Group on Climate-Related Matters for Regional Association II (Tokyo, Japan, 7–8 August 2008)

WCASP 75 Report of the Meeting of the Commission for Climatology Expert Team on Climate and Health (London, United Kingdom, 20-22 November 2006)

WCASP 74 TD 1401 Report of the Expert Meeting on Water Manager Needs for Climate Information in Water Resources Planning (Geneva, Switzerland, 18 - 20 December 2006)

WCDMP-69 Meeting of the CCI Expert Team on the Rescue, Preservation and Digitization of Climate Records, Bamako, Mali, 13-15 May 2008

WCDMP-68 Climate Data Management Guidelines, available on CD

WCDMP-67 Proceedings of the International Workshop on Rescue and Digitization of Climate Records in the Mediterranean Basin. Tarragona, Spain, 28-30 November 2007) (WMO/TD-No. 1432), available on hard copy

WCDMP-66 A Case Study/Guidance on the Development of Long-term Daily Adjusted Temperature Datasets (WMO/TD-No. 1425)
