

**WORLD METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION**



**ORGANISATION MÉTÉOROLOGIQUE
MONDIALE**

COMMISSION FOR CLIMATOLOGY
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

COMMISSION DE CLIMATOLOGIE
BUREAU DU PRÉSIDENT

T. PETERSON
President

c/o Climate Prediction and Adaptation Branch
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

Thomas C. Peterson, Ph.D.
President, WMO Commission for Climatology
Principal Scientist, NOAA's National Climatic Data Center
151 Patton Avenue
Asheville, NC 28801
Voice: +1-828-271-4287
Fax: +1-828-271-4246
E-mail: Thomas.C.Peterson@noaa.gov

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GENEVA, 17 April 2014

Annex: 1

Subject: Circular Letter No. 5 of the President of CCI

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The next meeting of the full Commission for Climatology is fast approaching. This Circular Letter, therefore, focuses primarily on preparations for this meeting and providing some background information that will help us achieve a successful CCI-16.

Yours sincerely,

(Thomas C. Peterson)
President
Commission for Climatology

To: Members of the Commission for Climatology
Members of the CCI Management Group and OPACEs

cc: Secretary-General, WMO)
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)

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION
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CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 5 (APRIL 2014)
OF THE PRESIDENT OF COMMISSION FOR CLIMATOLOGY

I. Sixteenth Session of CCI (CCI-16)

Every four years the Member States of the WMO Commission for Climatology (CCI) meet to review the work done over the past four years and agree upon the path forward that CCI will follow for the next four years. The Commission also elects a President and Vice President, and establishes new working structures consisting of a Management Group, Open Panels of CCI Experts (OPACEs) and their co-chairs, various expert teams, task teams and rapporteurs from among a worldwide pool of volunteer experts nominated by CCI Members. The Government of Germany has kindly offered to host CCI-16 in Heidelberg from the 3rd to the 8th of July of this year.

The World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and CCI have coordinated our schedules so WCRP will be holding the 35th annual meeting of their Joint Scientific Committee at the same time. This should improve the synergy and collaboration between WCRP and CCI.

2. Technical Conference Preceding CCI-16

WCRP and CCI are teaming up to hold a three-day Technical Conference immediately preceding CCI-16, with the formal title "*WMO Technical Conference on Climate Services – Building on the CLIPS Legacy*". CLIPS stands for the Climate Information and Prediction Service project. It was established by WMO in 1995 and fostered, under CCI guidance, effective application of climate knowledge and information for the benefit of society and the provision of climate services, including the prediction of significant climate variations both natural and as a result of human activity.

CLIPS was one of those happy projects that actually succeeded so well that it worked itself out of existence, though again with some CCI help. For example, four years ago at CCI-15 we agreed to set up a Task Team on CLIPS Evolution, which also was dissolved after it accomplished its goals. CLIPS played key roles in the creation of certain aspects of climate services, such as Regional Climate Centers (RCCs) and Regional Climate Outlook Fora (RCOF), which are now taken for granted. Indeed it is quite possible that without the achievements of CLIPS to show what is possible, the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) might look quite different.

For more information on the technical conference please see:

<http://www.wmo.int/clipsconf-2014>

3. Proposed structure of CCI

At the Management Group meeting in October of 2013, we reviewed the successes and struggles of CCI over the last four years and recommended some changes to the CCI structure for CCI-16 to consider. The full list of OPACEs and teams that the Management Group is recommending for the next four years is at the end of this letter. The main change we are proposing is to set up a fifth OPACE dedicated solely to capacity development. There are three main reasons behind this decision. The first is that each OPACE works from a list of volunteers who have chosen that panel based on the topics it addresses, such as data management or seasonal climate prediction. We hope that having a panel dedicated solely to capacity development will attract additional volunteers who are keenly interested in contributing their expertise to those endeavors, such as education and training. Almost all the teams in the other OPACEs will continue to be involved in capacity building but within the narrow focus of the team's topic. The second reason is that the approaches we used over the last four years were not as effective as we would have liked. We had cross-OPACE teams on capacity building, the Guide to Climatological Practices, and quality management. But those teams were largely made up of members of the Management Group who were already too busy with their core missions. So having a dedicated OPACE to address these issues will reduce the workload on the other OPACE co-chairs, whom we should remember are volunteers as well. The third reason is that this work really needs champions to push it forward. The two OPACE co-chairs for the potential future OPACE 5 would serve as those champions.

4. A note to CCI volunteers

Volunteers are fundamental to the success of CCI. Without your dedication we could not have achieved very much. The ideal volunteer is not necessarily the world's leading expert on a topic, as those individuals are often too busy. Rather they are those individuals for whom CCI work would be a win/win. That is, where CCI wins by the volunteer's work improving some aspect of global climatology. Where the individual wins because the work helps him or her professionally. And where the individual's institution and country win because the volunteer's international leadership in their particular aspect of climatology reflects positively on his or her home institution. While it is an honor to be on a CCI team, please keep in mind that the honor comes with a clear expectation that the volunteer will contribute time and energy to the team's work.

All of CCI's team members and rapporteurs are selected from the members of the OPACEs. Even the advisors that report to the President or Management Group are chosen from members of the OPACEs. As CCI is a constituent body of WMO, to be a member of an OPACE requires your country's Permanent Representative (PR) to WMO to nominate you. The nomination process is easy and straightforward. Formal letters inviting nominations have been sent to the PRs. This

<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/ccl/OPACEnomination.php>

web page provides links to the letter that was sent out the PRs as well as to the form that volunteers need to fill in and provide to their PRs. I expect each country has slightly different procedures to follow. For example, in the U.S., I am collecting the nominations and will pass the list and documentation on to my PR for formal nominating. Everyone nominated by the PR becomes a member of the Panel(s) they have listed (feel free to check as many boxes and panels as relevant). The information on these forms and your one-page vitae will guide the team selection. The process of selection of team members, from the list of Panel members, will start at CCI-16.

5. A Note to PRs or Delegates to CCI-16

As mentioned above, CCI relies on the volunteers you nominate to our Panels and we greatly appreciate your help in this. For the first time at CCI-16, we want to open up the initial team member selection process by having the delegates from each RA to get together and select one member from your region for each team. So it would be very helpful if you arrived in Heidelberg knowing who the key individuals from your country are that you wish to put forward to contribute to CCI as we are counting on your knowledge to optimize team membership.

6. Activities of the President

In these Circular Letters I try to provide an update on the activities and accomplishments of CCI. This time, however, it seems appropriate to briefly look back over the last four years. During this time, CCI has conducted many climate data training workshops, with at least one in each WMO region. The workshops' data analyses, in turn, contributed to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 5th Assessment Report. The CCI Management Group has pursued new initiatives to develop sector-specific climate indices and guidance on climate risk management, including demonstrations through training workshops. CCI has provided leadership to the establishment of delivery mechanisms for climate products and services, particularly through Regional Climate Centers (over 12 in various stages of implementation world-wide), Regional Climate Outlook Forums (17 currently underway world-wide) and National Climate Outlook Forums. CCI also produced a wide variety of guidance documents to help NMHSs in their operational activities in support of climate services, in terms of climate data, climate monitoring and climate prediction. CCI continues to underpin the role of WMO as the authoritative source for continental and world weather and climate extreme records.

Should you wish to learn more than I briefly summarized in one paragraph, document 4 of the CCI-16 documents, which will be made available at <http://ccl-16.wmo.int/> in the six official languages of WMO (English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese), provides over 10 pages detailing accomplishments of the President, Vice President, and each OPACE over the last four years.

I also have two somewhat personal items that are worth mentioning. During the CCI Management Group meeting in Denver in 2011, we decided that at our next MG meeting we would invite the chairs of the climate working groups of each Regional Association. Because we already have people in the MG from each region, as the date of our next Management Group meeting approached I wasn't sure there would be much value gained from inviting six more people to participate in our meeting. However, because it is important to follow through and do what we said we would do, we invited them to our October 2013 Management Group meeting. I'm delighted to report that I was wrong. The regional climate working group chairs provided very valuable insights which helped craft our proposed structure for CCI.

Lastly, towards the end of last year I received an email that started out just like many spam emails we all get: "It is my pleasure to congratulate you on your selection as . . ." The honor sounded too good to be true, but when I reread the email I didn't see anything obviously amiss. So I cautiously replied by asking them what part of my work were they responding to. The reply indicated that it was for the peer-reviewed paper *Explaining Extreme Events of 2012 from a Climate Perspective*. And that is why I was named one of *Foreign Policy Magazine's* "top 100 Leading Global Thinkers of 2013."

7. Proposed structure for CCI

At the Management Group meeting in October of 2013, the MG reviewed the successes and struggles of CCI over the last four years and recommended the following structure, panels, teams and rapporteurs for the next four years.

0. President and Vice President

- 0.1 Communications Advisors
- 0.2 High Level Advisor on the Global Framework for Climate Services
- 0.3 Implementation Coordination Team on the Climate Services Information System

1. OPACE 1: Climate Data Management

- 1.1 Expert Team on Climate Data Base Management Systems,
- 1.2 Expert Team on Data Rescue
- 1.3 Rapporteurs on climate observational issues (in collaboration with JCOMM rapporteurs)
- 1.4 Inter-programme Expert Team on Climate Data Modernization Programme
- 1.5 Task Team on the Statement of Guidance on CCI Observational Needs
- 1.6 Rapporteurs on the Volunteer Observing Networks

2. OPACE 2: Climate Monitoring and Assessment

- 2.1 Expert Team on National Climate Monitoring Products
- 2.2 Task Team on the Definition of Extreme Weather and Climate Events
- 2.3 CCI/CLIVAR/JCOMM Joint Expert Team on Climate Change Detection and Indices

- 2.4 Task Team on Homogenization
- 2.5 Rapporteurs on World Weather and Climate Extreme Records
- 2.6 Task Team on the Use of Remote Sensing Data for Climate Monitoring

3. OPACE 3: Climate Prediction, Projection, and their Delivery Mechanisms

- 3.1 CCI/CBS Joint Expert Team on Regional Climate Centres with Regional Association Focal Points
- 3.2 CBS/CCI Joint Expert Team on Operational Predictions from Sub-seasonal to Longer-time Scales
- 3.3 Task Team on Global Seasonal Climate Update
- 3.3 Task Team on Regional Climate Outlook Fora
- 3.4 Task Team on Tailored Climate Information

4. OPACE 4: User Interface for Climate Adaptation and Risk Management

- 4.1 Expert Team on Climate Risk and Sector-Specific Climate Indices
- 4.2 Expert Team on the User Interface for Climate Information
- 4.3 Expert Team on Climate Risk Management
- 4.4 Focal Point for Disaster Risk Reduction

5 OPACE 5: Capacity Development

- 5.1 Expert Team on Education and Training
- 5.2 Expert Team on Quality Management
- 5.3 Rapporteurs on the Guide to Climatological Practices
- 5.4 Advisors on Social Media
- 5.5 Expert Team on Infrastructural and Institutional Capabilities