Our ref: M/CL  

GENEVA, 16 March 2001

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

Dear Colleague,

I have pleasure in sending you my 5th Circular Letter which covers the period May to December 2000. Some of the recommendations of EC, which were mentioned in my last letter, will again be taken up in the present one.

In addition to the status of CCI projects that will follow later in this letter, I would like to inform you of two significant future events: the Thirteenth Session of CCI (CCI-XIII), and the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

You may be interested to learn that CCI-XIII has been scheduled to be held in Geneva from 19 to 30 November 2001. The notice to this effect has already been forwarded to all WMO Members. Although CCI-XIII will follow CCI-XII by slightly more than 4 years, the only slot available was October/November 2001. There is also a proposal to hold a Technical Conference (TC) of two or three days within this same interval, with the outcome of the TC feeding into the discussions of the Commission. The TC is entitled “Climate Services for the 21st Century” and will be chaired by Dr P. Lamb (see http://weather.ou.edu/~som/faculty/lamb.htm for his biographical sketch). The conference aims to engage participants in understanding and implementing user-oriented climatological services that build on a solid foundation in the traditional practices of data collection, archiving, monitoring and reporting. A list of topics has been selected and at present we are in the process of identifying speakers. Watch the CCI Internet web site (http://www.wmo.ch/web/wcp/ccl/CClmenu.html) for the latest information throughout the coming months.

Preparations are underway within the UN system for the World Summit on Sustainable Development that is planned to take place in South Africa in mid-2002. I encourage CCI members to participate in their national preparations for this 10-year review of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Extensive information about events and activities leading up to the World Summit is being made available on the World Wide Web, at the following address: http://www.un.org/rio+10/index.html.

Some meetings that have taken place since the last Circular Letter are as follows:

1. Meeting of the CCI Task Group on future WMO Climate Database Management Systems (CDMSs);
2. Meeting of experts on Curricula related to the Methodology of Assessing Economic Efficiency of Meteorological (Climate) Products and Services;
3. Fifty-second session of the WMO Executive Council (EC-LII);
4. CLICOM-DARE Meeting in San José, Costa Rica;
5. The International Congress on Human Biometeorology;
6. 3rd Seminar of Homogenisation and Data Quality Control in Climatological Databases;
7. Meeting of Presidents of Technical Commissions;
8. Meeting of CCI-Guide Chapter Editors;
9. The 3rd European Conference on Applied Climatology (ECAC-3);
10. International Workshop on Regional Climate Outlook Forums;
11. Archival Climatic History Survey (ARCHISS) Meeting;
12. Commission Meetings: CHy-XI and CBS-XII;
13. RA I Regional Training Seminar on Climate Data Management focusing on Applications for Drought Preparedness;
14. Meeting of a CCI Task Team on future WMO Climate Database Management Systems (CDMSs).
1. **MEETING OF THE CCl TASK GROUP ON FUTURE WMO CLIMATE DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (CDMSs)**  
   (Geneva, 3-5 May 2000)

The Task Group met at the Secretariat from 3 to 5 May 2000 to decide how WMO should proceed to meet the varied needs of its Members who want to take advantage of the latest technology to manage their climate data. Questionnaire replies from 95 Members showed 14 offering to share their systems with other interested Members and a huge 84% interested in using, testing or helping to enhance future CDMSs. The meeting developed an evaluation criteria document and specified the characteristics of a test data set. These, plus a feedback form, are now being used by most of the 14 Members to self-test their systems.

2. **MEETING OF EXPERTS ON CURRICULA RELATED TO THE METHODOLOGY OF ASSESSING ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY OF METEOROLOGICAL (CLIMATE) PRODUCTS AND SERVICES**  
   (Moscow, Russian Federation, 29 May-2 June 2000)

This meeting was held in Moscow (29 May-2 June 2000) by the Education and Training Department (ETR) of WMO and convened after the recognition by hydrometeorological services that, with the present economic world order and fast means of communication, there is a growing need for rigorous determination of the economic value of NMHSs as an aid to decision-makers for funding purposes. The purpose of the meeting is to devise a curriculum for the training of serving meteorologists/climatologists in methodologies of assessing the economic efficiency of meteorological services and products. It will be aimed at practising specialists who will already have acquired experience in the field and who need to have a thorough understanding of the economic value of meteorology for the conduct of their duties.

The proposed curriculum will cover the following topics:

1. Use of meteorological information in the different spheres of the economy;
2. Methods of verification of forecast;
3. Establishment of models for the estimation of economic benefits;
4. Techniques relating to (3).

But, as the application of meteorology to everyday life is a dynamic process, the curriculum is expected to be an evolving process and should be kept under review.

3. **FIFTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE WMO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**  
   (Geneva, 16-29 June 2000)

EC-LII (16-29 June 2000) was held at the WMO Headquarters. Apart from the topics that were mentioned in the last circular letter, EC-LII also established an Inter-Commission Task Team (ICTT), comprising members of CCl, CBS, CAS and CAgM, to define the concept and the need for, and the requirements of, regional climate centres. A resolution to this effect was adopted. The status of different CCl projects, namely CLIPS, CLICOM, TRUCE, ARCHISS, Climate Change Detection, the Climate issue involving UNFCCC, among others, retained the attention of Council. It also appreciated the progress made in the activities planned in Phase I of the Showcase Project on Climate and Human Health. GCOS activities received much attention with the presence, at the meeting, of the Chairman of GCOS. Council urged CCl to complete the Guide to Climatological Practices in the near future. The present status of these projects is commented upon below.

EC-LII urged all technical commissions to review their mode of operation, including the size and functions of their working groups.

4. **CLICOM - DARE MEETING**  
   (San José, Costa Rica, 17-28 July 2000)

A CLICOM/DARE workshop was held in San José, Costa Rica from 17 to 28 July 2000 and was hosted by the National Meteorological Institute of Costa Rica. The participants proposed an implementation plan and framework for the future DARE IV project. This included conducting pilot projects in one English-speaking country and one Spanish-speaking country in order to evaluate the use of digital camera technology for preserving climate data and facilitating its digitization. It was recommended that a report on the pilot projects be presented to a proposed WMO-organized international expert meeting on Data Rescue.
5. **THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON HUMAN BIOMETEOROLOGY**  
(St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 18-22 September 2000)

This Congress was held in St. Petersburg from 18 to 22 September 2000, with the participation of scientists from Russia, CIS countries, as well as Hungary, Venezuela, Germany, India, Italy, Kenya, Macedonia, Nepal, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Sudan, USA, Turkey, The Czech Republic, Yugoslavia and Japan. Dr V. Razuvaev (CCI Rapporteur on Climate and Human Health) gave a welcoming address.

The Congress enabled the exchange of research results in the sphere of biometeorology by scientists (especially, the understanding of the impact of atmospheric processes on human health), as well as the elaboration of techniques for preventive measures against meteoropathic responses of the human organism.

Among the headings of topics considered were the following:

- Social problems in the objectives of biometeorology;
- Bioclimate and human adaptation mechanisms;
- Heliogeophysical factors and human health;
- Forecast of the atmospheric conditions for medical purposes;
- Medical geography;
- Atmospheric pollution and human health.

For more information on the outcome of the Congress, contact Dr Razuvaev at: razuvaev@meteo.ru, or Dr Elena Golovina at: golovina@sici.ru.

6. **3rd SEMINAR OF HOMOGENIZATION AND DATA QUALITY CONTROL IN CLIMATOLOGICAL DATABASES**  
(Budapest, Hungary, 24-29 September 2000)

The issue of homogenization is of importance to CCI although it has not appeared as an agenda item at CCI or related meetings during the last few years. The experts present at this Seminar (Budapest 24-29 September 2000) were unanimous in aligning their thoughts with the recommendation of both Cg-XIII and EC-LII in urging WMO Members "to maintain a suitable period of parallel observations to ensure a homogeneous historical climate record."

The following are some of the resolutions adopted:

- WMO to coordinate the establishment of an expert group for updating homogenization methods and procedures.
- A group of experts should compile a comparison of the methods and verification procedures in order to help users of climate data.

Other recommendations spelled out the need for capacity building, of making available reliable data, etc. More details can be obtained from Dr Sandor Szalai at the Hungarian Meteorological Office in Budapest: Szalai.s@met.hu

7. **MEETING OF PRESIDENTS OF TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS (PTC)**  
(Geneva, 4-5 October 2000)

Half a day prior to the PTC meeting was devoted to a brainstorming session for the preparation and layout of the WMO 6th Long-term Plan (6LTP). The order of the day concerned vision statements, strategic goals and desired state of a future WMO. Suggestions were formulated for programme structures to enable WMO to best meet societal changes. Cross-commission activities and relations of WMO with other intergovernmental organisations, including those of the UN family, were also touched upon. This exercise will culminate with the presentation of a report by the Chairman of the EC Working Group on WMO Restructuring to the next EC.

Issues related to the WMO structure, Commission meetings and Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) were discussed. The recommendations of the EC with reference to urban meteorology and the planning proposal for a scientific conference on climate research were also discussed. In this latter context it was pointed out that there are already a number of events involving climate research being planned, including conferences within WCRP, the next session of CCI and various activities on the review of post-UNCED actions in 2002.
The other agenda item was a broad one with commission presidents presenting their respective commission’s projects, plans and areas needing inter-commission cooperation. This resulted in a complex matrix of ideas showing products, requirements and areas of cooperation. After careful analysis, it was agreed that the following four areas were of particular interest to almost all the commissions:

- Future WMO information system, including coordination of the development of Automated Weather Stations (AWS);
- Natural disaster reduction;
- Seasonal-to-interannual prediction;
- Urban meteorology/climatology and hydrology.

It was suggested that the approach to the question of database management should be an integrated one, unlike the present with separate DBMSs. Following this, and other discussions at this meeting, I have initiated actions to set up an expert group to advise on the organisation of a data bank for the archiving of phenological data. Those of you who may have suggestions are requested to let me know. It is expected that, together with CCI, experts from CHy and CAgM will form part of the group. Some CCI members are already conducting measurements of this type which should be of interest to agrometeorologists, hydrologists, climatologists and others. Based on preliminary observations via satellite imagery, it is suggested that in the Northern Hemisphere, the length of the vegetation period has become longer with time. This suggestion, if correct, is indicative of integrated effects that global warming may have on the water cycle, agricultural outputs, on land-use and crop planning and on climate. The recent WGII Report of IPCC provides more commentary on this topic.

8. MEETING OF CCI-GUIDE CHAPTER EDITORS
(Geneva, 9-10 October 2000)

You will recall that in the past I have been, on several occasions, soliciting your contributions on topics for the first part of the Guide. Many of you responded positively and the Commission is grateful for your responses. The contributions were entrusted to editors who revised and completed the missing parts. The writer/editors of these chapters met for a revision of the material so far gathered. However some minor adjustments in content were again thought to be necessary and work is underway. I am pleased to inform you that several prominent members of the climate community responded favourably to the request that they consider taking on the role of Lead Editor, and I have appointed Mr Ken Davidson to this task.

9. THE 3RD EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON APPLIED CLIMATOLOGY
(Pisa, Italy, 16-20 October 2000)

The 3rd European Conference on Applied Climatology (ECAC-3) was organised by the Institute of Agrometeorology and Environmental Analysis for Agriculture (Pisa, Italy, 16-20 October 2000). Eighteen CCI members attended the Conference. Both the research and user communities were present. The Conference provided an opportunity for an updated discussion on the most recent research results in applied climatology and for a profitable exchange of information between the two communities. Contributions were made dealing with new results in climate variability and predictability research, with new climate applications for the most vulnerable areas such as agriculture, forestry, urban, health, tourism and recreation. Development of new sources for climate application, and modern tools for climate information presentation, were also presented.

10. INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON REGIONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUMS
(Pretoria, South Africa, 16-20 October 2000)

The vice-president of CCI, Mr J.M. Nicholls, attended the above meeting (Pretoria, 16-20 October 2000), which was originated and organised by the CLIPS Project Office in collaboration with NOAA/OGP, the World Bank, the IRI and the South African Weather Bureau. The Workshop dealt with the future organisation of the successful Forums, including technical issues, the developing international infrastructure and continuity of funding. Numerous recommendations were made covering possible improvements to methodologies for producing, delivering, presenting and verifying forecasts, needs for capacity building, infrastructure development and research, as well as a variety of regional issues. A report of the meeting will be published and details will be made available in due course through the CLIPS Web Page. The outcomes of this meeting will guide WMO, the World Bank, the IRI, and US Office of Global Programmes, and other contributing bodies, regarding future development and support for the Forums.
11. ARCHIVAL CLIMATIC HISTORY SURVEY (ARCHISS) MEETING 
(Geneva, 17 November 2000)

Representatives from the sponsoring agencies, the International Council on Archives, UNESCO and WMO, met with relevant Secretariat staff on 17 November 2000 to develop a future strategy for the project, which included seeking major funding for joint ARCHISS/DARE projects aimed at locating and digitizing priority climatological and hydrological data.

12. COMMISSION MEETINGS: CHy-XI and CBS-XII

At the kind invitation of the Government of Nigeria, the eleventh session of the Commission for Hydrology was held in Abuja, Nigeria from 6 to 16 November 2000. The Commission elected Mr D. Rutashobya to the office of president of CHy. Mr B. Stewart was elected to the post of vice-president. At the close of the meeting, tributes were paid to Professor Hofius for his exemplary leadership of the Commission over the previous eight years and to Nigeria for its support to WMO, in particular the Commission session, and the hospitality it had shown to all attending the session.

The twelfth session of Commission for Basic Systems was held in Geneva from 29 November to 8 December 2000. Here also there is a new president - Dr Geoff Love from Australia - who will be assisted by Dr Alexander Gusev from the Russian Federation. Due to various cross-cutting activities between CCl and CBS, the vice-president of CCl, Mr J.M. Nicholls, actively participated in the debates of the CBS session. Activities relating to the following were amongst those agreed as requiring active collaboration and CCl representation on the CBS expert teams over the next two years:

- The redesign of the Global Observing System (GOS);
- The requirements of Automatic Weather Systems;
- The WMO information system, and more specifically on those issues pertaining to climate stations, GCOS Surface Network (GSN) stations;
- Infrastructure requirements for seasonal to inter-annual prediction;
- The Public Weather Services Implementation Coordination Team covering media and public information on climate, climate change, urbanisation, human health, pollution, among others.

Prior to the commission meeting, a Technical Conference on Information Systems was held, on 27 to 28 November, where Mr Nicholls presented a paper entitled: “Information System Requirements of the WCP”.

13. RA I REGIONAL TRAINING SEMINAR ON CLIMATE DATA MANAGEMENT FOCUSING ON APPLICATIONS FOR DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS 
(Niamey, Niger, 4-15 December 2000)

Following installations of CLICOM systems in 11 African countries within the framework of the Drought Preparedness project supported by France, the UK and WMO, a regional training seminar on Climate Data Management focusing on Applications for Drought Preparedness was organized at ACMAD, Niamey, Niger from 4 to 15 December 2000 for 6 French speaking countries: Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Guinea, Niger, Mauritania and Senegal.

The purpose of the seminar was to design climatological applications for drought management that make use of the climate data in the databases created using the new CLICOM systems.

The different topics covered included CLICOM quick and query-language reports, an introduction to the Windows version of INSTAT, a review of climatic events and their relation to drought, a multi-stations analysis using spatial analysis tools such as GIS, the basics and tools for seasonal forecasting, different climatological products for users and various methods for processing climatic data in relation to drought preparedness.

14. MEETING OF A CCl TASK TEAM ON FUTURE WMO CLIMATE DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (CDMSS) 
(Geneva, 5-9 February 2001)

Following the meeting of the CCI Task Group on Future WMO CDMSs in May 2000, a criteria questionnaire and a set of self-testing materials, comprising data sets (both hard copy and digital) and a task list, were sent to the 14 Members who had offered to share their systems with other Members. A small CCI Task Team met at the WMO Secretariat in Geneva from 5 to 9 February 2001 to analyse the self-testing results so far received and to plan the on-going evaluation process. Seven Members (Australia, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Jordan,
the Russian Federation, Tunisia and Zimbabwe) submitted responses to the criteria questionnaire and six of them also submitted self-testing results. The evaluation for each system identifies which functions comply with requirements, which only partially comply and which do not. An iteration stage is now taking place with some of the self-testing results being re-submitted and re-evaluated until the evaluation fairly describes the system and can be made available to Members via a password-restricted WMO Web page. Members will be encouraged to move to one of these next generation client/server CDMSs. They will be able to consult the Web page to see which, of the offered systems, best meets their needs. VCP aid will be sought to help those Members who may need assistance in making the transition from the previous CLICOM project software.

15. STATUS OF CCI PROJECTS

CLIPS

The CLIPS Curriculum, a web-based series of lectures on CLIPS-related issues, now has 11 completed modules. These will be made generally available through the CLIPS Web Page. The modules were first used in the CLIPS Training Workshop, held in Auckland during December 2000. Trained at the Workshop were the first batch of CLIPS Focal Points, the development of whose activities is a further CCI Project.

The CLIPS Food Chain Showcase Project has been completed at a major information meeting held in London, UK, on 2 February 2001. The Project dealt with the use of seasonal forecasts in many aspects of the UK Food Chain, and has proved highly successful. A report will be available through the CLIPS Web Pages.

Future CDMSs

Results of the self-testing phase of this project (see item 1 above) were sent to the Secretariat to be evaluated by a small team in February 2001 (see item 14 above). The results will be put on the Web for potential users. Bilateral discussions between them and the Members, offering to share their systems, should follow. This will be on-going, with further evaluations being put on the Web as new systems become operational. Feedback from Members adopting systems will also be added.

Drought Preparedness Project

CLICOM installation missions were conducted in 11 African countries through the Drought Preparedness Project, co-sponsored by France, the United Kingdom and WMO. Following the implementation plan, installation of hardware and required software in the recipient countries and training of local staff by WMO experts were conducted under WMO supervision during May to November 2000. The first phase of the project has therefore been completed successfully.

DARE project

The pilot project to evaluate the use of digital camera will start in 2001 in Jamaica and Honduras. New projects in the area of data rescue activities will also be developed for Regions II and V. A WMO international expert meeting, to develop a global strategy on Data Rescue for all the Regions, is planned for May 2001 in Geneva.

Climate System Monitoring

The CSM page on the Web replaces previous printed monthly bulletins and maintains a series of links to CSM materials in Members’ and other centres’ pages. Thanks to responses from Members to a letter from the WMO Secretary-General, dated 18 August 2000, it is becoming more complete and keeping this important page up-to-date is an on-going activity. To reach it from the WMO page “www.wmo.ch”, click on “World Climate Data and Monitoring Programme” in the WMO pull-down list and then on “Access to Global Climate System Monitoring Products”.

Climate of the 20th Century

The author, Dr. William Burroughs, and the WMO Secretariat are beginning the final round of amendments to the text for the 5 chapters of the book, and in February will begin the development work on the graphics and page layouts. A draft copy of the material is expected to be available for WMO review in May 2001.

A number of WMO Member countries, Australia, France, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, and the USA, have agreed to sponsor the book which will be published by Cambridge University Press in mid-2002.
Climate and Human Health

As a result of having chaired several sessions of an Internet Workshop on Windchill - hosted by Canada (3-7 April 2000), Dr Gerd Jendritzky (CCI Lead Rapporteur on Climate and Human Health) was appointed co-Chair of the International Society for Biometeorology's (ISB's) Commission on Thermal Index. The objective is a universal thermal climate index that would be valid for operational assessment of human stress in thermal environments of heat or cold.

Showcase Projects: Heat/Health Warning Systems (HHWS)

Work progressed on development of HHWSs in Rome, Italy, and Shanghai, China. Dr Larry Kalkstein, CCI Rapporteur on Climate and Health and the scientific project manager for both projects, presented at EC-LII the scientific lecture, "Biometeorology - Looking At The Links Between Weather, Climate, And Health," which will appear in a forthcoming edition of the WMO Bulletin. Activities in this period concentrated on the design of intervention plans by the public health representatives in those cities, and on the verification of the weather- and climate-based warning algorithms by the meteorological services.

In mid-2000, the University of Delaware hosted 2 meteorologists from the Shanghai Meteorological Bureau and 2 doctors from the Shanghai Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Municipal Health Bureau to assist in development of the Heat/Health Watch-Warning System for Shanghai. The work was funded under a WMO VCP Project (USA) together with funding through the World Health Organization. Historical data were provided with the assistance of the United Kingdom Meteorological Office. This activity was described in an article in the January 2001 WMO Bulletin.

Urban and Building Climatology

A Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (SSGA) will be held in June 2001 ("Istanbul+5") to review and appraise the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The focus in the SSGA is to be on the progress in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda that has occurred since the Habitat II conference (Istanbul, 1996), which resulted in the Habitat Agenda. WMO Members were requested to provide a short report to WMO with respect to the work being carried out in five key areas: health and safety; environmental management; water management; urban pollution; and, disaster prevention and reconstruction.

With the help of funding from the United Nations Environment Programme, WMO printed the publication entitled "Biometeorology and Urban Climatology at the Turn of the Millennium: Selected Papers from the Conference ICB-ICUC'99." A copy has been sent to each participant in the conference.

The October 2000 issue of the WMO Bulletin was devoted to environmental issues related to megacities, and contained several articles that addressed urban issues in the context of human health. I expect that this theme will be increasingly important to the CCI in the coming years.

Climate and Energy

Contributions from CCI Rapporteurs H. Dobesch and S. Robles-Gil comprised the bulk of the WMO's report to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development of case studies on the use of climate/weather information in support of wind or solar energy.

16. PLANNED MEETINGS

The following list shows some climate-related meetings that are planned for the coming year:

- The RA 1 Regional Training Seminar on Climate Data Management focusing on Applications for Drought Preparedness will be held in Nairobi, Kenya from 19 to 30 March 2001.
- The International Conference on Forecasting Monsoons from Days to Years will be held in Delhi, India, from 23 to 28 March 2001. For more information, visit Webpage http://www.ncmrwf.gov.in/icom.html or write to the Organising Secretary at the India Meteorological Department in Delhi.
- The CLIPS Working Group meeting is planned for 26-29 March 2001 in Toulouse, France.
- The RA VI Working Group on Climate Related Matters will meet in Budapest, Hungary, 2-6 April 2001.
- The XII Global Warming International Conference will be held in Cambridge, U.K, from 8 to 11 April 2001. For more information consult http://www.Globalwarming.net.
- The Intercommission Task Team on Regional Climate Centres is planned for 23-26 April 2001 in Geneva.
• The International Data Rescue Meeting will be held in Geneva from 7 to 9 May 2001.
• An open meeting of the “Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Research Community” will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 6 to 8 October 2001. This community is involved in research on the causes and consequences of, and responses to, global environmental change. See http://sedac.ciesin.org/openmeeting for more details.

A list of WMO sponsored meetings can be consulted on http://www.wmo.ch/web/listmeet.html.

17. OTHER ACTIVITIES

CCI members have also participated in other activities of WMO. Several meetings have been organised either by WMO or jointly with other organisations. Some of these are:

• The first CLIPS Training Workshop for Focal Points took place in Auckland, New Zealand from 29 November to 15 December 2000. Considerable attention was devoted to matters pertaining to methodologies for forecasting, applications, the management of projects and the involvement of the user community in the development of climate services.
• Important activities have been reported by the Chairman of the CCI Working Group on Climate Change Detection. These concern the analysis of the “Extreme Temperature Range Index” for those parts of the world where data were available. The outcomes will appear in the final draft of the IPCC TAR.
• The Deutscher Wetterdienst, with support from EUMETSAT and WMO, organised a training workshop on the theme “Satellite Application Facility on Climate Monitoring” (CM-SAF). The objectives, among others, are to make potential users aware of the CMSAF and to inform users of developments and initiate cooperation/feedback procedures/support concerning validation of CMSAF products. For more information about the outcomes of the workshop, contact peer.hechler@dwd.de
• CCI has been requested by the Education and Training Department of WMO to prepare a curriculum for specialisation in Urban and Building Climatology. I have also proposed that topics related to Human Health and Comfort be considered in the same curriculum. A group of CCI experts are working on it. Suggestions are welcome.

18. PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

• The publication “Biometeorology and Urban Climatology at the Turn of the Millennium: Selected papers from the Conference ICB-ICU-99” (WCASP No. 50) have been printed, with funding from the United Nations Environment Programme. It is a rich collection of research results and ideas.
• The WMO Instruments and Observing Methods Report #74 entitled “Papers Presented at the WMO Technical Conference on Meteorological and Environmental Instruments And Methods of Observation (TECO-2000), Beijing, China, 23-27 Oct. 2000” has been distributed in CD-ROM format only.
• The report of the meeting of the Task Group on Future WMO Climate Database Management Systems (WCDMP Report N°46) has been distributed.

On a professional and personal note, you may be interested to learn that our good friend Peter Scholefield, former Chief of the World Climate Data and Monitoring Programme (WCDMP) of the WCP, has taken early retirement from WMO. On your behalf I wish him and his wife a happy retirement and a long life. We also thank him for his devotion to the Commission.

Allow me, before ending this letter, to wish you all a happy NEW YEAR 2001.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) Y. Boodhoo
President
Commission for Climatology