Dear Colleague,

I have much pleasure in forwarding the 4th circular letter of the present inter-sessional period of CCl, which covers the period from May 1999 to May 2000. There have been several important events since my last letter, some of which were:

1. Meeting of the Presidents of Technical Commissions; Geneva, October 1999;
2. International Conference on Urban Climatology and International Congress of Biometeorology (ICUC-ICB), Sydney, Australia, November 1999;
5. Meeting of the CCI Advisory Working Group, Reading; UK, April 2000;

**Meeting of Presidents of Technical Commissions**

Collaborative projects such as the setting up of regional climate centres, TRUCE (CCI) and GURME (CAS) were discussed; the climate data issue was raised; liaison between the Technical Commissions and the Regional Associations were mentioned; and exchange of information concerning the restructuring of Commissions, as well as the overall review of the WMO structure, were considered.

**International Conference on Urban Climatology (ICUC) and International Congress of Biometeorology (ICB)**

Thirteen CCI members, rapporteurs and members of working groups were present at the ICUC and two at the ICB meetings in Sydney last November; all were sponsored by WMO and participated actively in the meetings.

CCI received overwhelming support and appreciation for the work being performed in the field of urban climatology. The applied and operational communities were adequately represented by CCI rapporteurs who made their points quite clearly through papers on the TRUCE project, the Heat/Health Warning System project, application of climatological data and knowledge to improve human well-being, and other areas.

An important paper to this conference raised the question of representativeness of urban data. It asked participants to consider issues such as what data in a complex urban canopy could represent the climatic characteristics and how to choose the best observing site (cost, practicality, etc.). This very valid issue needs further consideration and reaction from CCI members.

At a side meeting I presented and obtained the support for the proposal made at Congress concerning the importance of devising and utilising proper building codes for erecting houses, office blocks, industrial units, etc. for the provision of safety and comfort to the dwellers.
A summary of the findings and recommendations of the WMO participants can be consulted on the WMO CCI Internet Web site. If you have difficulty accessing this or other information on the WMO CCI Internet Web site, you may request the Secretariat to send you a printed copy.

**CCI Working Group on Climate Change Indices**

This Group held its first meeting in Geneva in November 1999 and proposed, inter-alia, the following:

- To further the development of indices through a recommendation to convene a number of regional capacity building workshops focusing on regional development of climate indices;
- To invite statistical experts for a specific period of the workshops to provide training in statistical methodologies for the analysis of trends and periodicities that are relevant to the development and analysis of climate indices.

**International Conference on Clean Energy**

This conference took place in Geneva in January 2000. WMO sponsored the participation of two CCI rapporteurs on New and Renewable Energy, Sandra Robles-Gil and Hartwig Dobesch. Some experts from the report of one of the participants’ follows:

"There has been an increasing and urgent interest to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to accelerate the development of new technologies that use various clean renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, hydro, tidal, biomass and geothermal, which have less impact on climate, the environment and health.

- One of the main impediments for a more extensive use of solar energy and other renewable sources is the relative price compared to the highly subsidised fossil fuels,
- Several countries are starting to implement Efficient Energy Programs and although there is a slow progress, some countries already have Eco-Tax Policies."

The rapporteur further writes:

"Because climate is a natural resource greatly related to the use of energy, and because weather has a large effect on most solar energy technologies, the role of climatologists and meteorologists is essential in providing information and advice in the resource planning, design, implementation and operation of these systems”.

The reports of these rapporteurs (H. Dobesch, S. Robles-Gil) are also available on the WMO CCI Internet Web site.

**Meeting of the CCI Advisory Working Group**

The meeting of the CCI Advisory Working Group was convened at the kind invitation of the U.K. Meteorological Office, at the seat of its college in Reading, Bracknell, from 3 to 7 April 2000. The activities of CCI were reviewed and recommendations made as to ways of further enhancing the work during the intersessional period. The full report can be consulted on the WMO CCI Internet Web site.

Some of the most important decisions dealt with the following issues:

- The Showcase Project: Heat/Health Warning Systems;
- The data issue: the need to harmonise the collection and homogenisation of data for the different WMO programmes and other organisations such as the IPCC, UNFCCC and for the purpose of devising and verifying climate change indices;
- The publication on the Climate of the 20th Century;
- CLICOM, DARE and ARCHISS projects;
- Formulation for the evaluation of the need for Regional Climate Centres;
- CLIPS and GCOS;
- More visibility for rapporteurs’ reports
- Preparations for the thirteenth session of the Commission, and
- Enhancing participation in the Commission’s meetings.
Reports of CCI Members

Regular reports from some Advisory Working Group members have been received. The vice-president has also been sending regular reports on Resolution 40, as it pertains to climate data and to his activities as liaison with CBS. Reports from other rapporteurs include the following:

- V. VentSchmidt on GCOS, Observation network and EURO-CLIPS
- K. Davidson on activities linked to the ARCHISS project
- S. Robles-Gil on Solar Energy
- B. Padmanabhamurthy on Urban and Building Climatology
- N.V. Kobysheva on Urban and Building Climatology
- P. Hechler on GCOS matters
- R. Basher on the data issue.

In addition, Mr Y. Kimura of Japan, the rapporteur on Methods of Climate Prediction including Model Output within the CLIPS Working Group, prepared an elaborate questionnaire on Methods of Climate Prediction and their Verification. The same rapporteur has helped prepare a text on the principal job-competencies required in the field of "Climate Monitoring and Prediction" as a CCI contribution to WMO # 258 "Guidelines for Education and Training of Personnel in Meteorology and Operational Hydrology" for the Education and Training Department of WMO.

In September 1999, Dr E. Rudel, CCI rapporteur on Automatic Weather Observing Station Systems in liaison with CIMO, organised the 2nd International Conference "On Experiences with Automatic Weather Stations" in Austria.

I would urge all chairs of CCI working groups and CCI rapporteurs not directly connected with CCI working groups to prepare a final report and submit it to me, with a copy to the Secretariat, by November 2000, i.e. six months prior to the next CCI Session.

Meeting of the Editorial Board on the CCI Guide to Climatological Practices

The Meeting of the Editorial Board on the CCI Guide to Climatological Practices was a one-day meeting held at the end of the Advisory Working Group meeting, in Reading, UK. The board comprises 5 members and each board member has taken the responsibility for revising one section, providing further guidelines to the writers, looking into any missing parts and requesting contributions. The Board committed itself to arranging for all of Part I to be drafted for review by mid-July 2000. I would like, therefore, to issue here a renewed and earnest appeal to all to help in this task so that the Guide, which is a vital tool for all of us, will soon be completed. The Report of the First Meeting of the Editorial Board for the Third Edition of the Guide to Climatological Practices (Reading, UK, 8 April 2000) is available on the WMO CCI Internet Web site.

Deficiency in Data Collection Procedures

Remarks were formulated at the ICUC meeting in Sydney to the effect that sub-standard equipment and screens of cheaper material (plastic or even tin) are being utilised. CCI members are kindly requested to monitor the situation in this respect and to discourage this practice in order to safeguard the quality of the data.

Brief Status Report on some CCI Projects

The following projects have seen significant activities:

Activities in the Showcase Project: Heat/Health Warning Systems accelerated last year in Rome and Shanghai. It is significant to note the involvement of WHO and UNEP. (See WCASP Report No. 49 - Report of the Planning Meeting for the Shanghai Clips Showcase Project: Heat/Health Warning System (Shanghai, 6-8 October 1999), on the WMO CCI Internet Web site.)

I received a communication regarding an interesting type of roof tile, which is porous to a certain extent so that it can absorb and retain water for several days and therefore creates a form of insulation and cooling for buildings. Another advantage of this tile is that it is made of fly ash obtained from power plants, which also addresses the problem of fly ash disposal. This development warrants further investigation in the context of TRUCE.
The climate activities under CLIPS have seen considerable activity since the user community, in addition to the meteorological community, is eager to have climate predictions available seasons ahead in order to plan for food security and to make decisions in other socio-economic sectors.

**Fifty-second Session of the WMO Executive Council- (May 2000)**

The Executive Council Meeting (EC-LII) was held in Geneva in May 2000. Decisions relevant to CCI taken by EC-LII relate inter alia to:

- Regional climate centres,
- Code of ethics for those having advance knowledge of climate prediction,
- Proposals for the internal structure of CCI,
- The holding of a scientific conference prior to or during CCI-XIII.
- Status of the different CCI projects.

The actions required by the Council relevant to CCI, WCASP and WCDMP are attached as an Annex.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) Y. Boodhoo

President
Commission for Climatology
### World Climate Programme and Its Coordination (Agenda Item 4.1)

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<tr>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<td>4.1.9</td>
<td>• work closely with the UNFCCC and GCOS Secretariats to explore options for including suitable references to historical data sets in the national reports.</td>
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<td>4.1.10</td>
<td>• ensure collaboration between CCI and CBS CIMO and GCOS in standardizing climate observations from automatic weather stations.</td>
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<td>4.1.13</td>
<td>• initiate steps to secure additional funding to successfully complete the century climate book</td>
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<td>4.1.14</td>
<td>• ensure data management needs of developing countries are met in future CLICOM project developments</td>
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<td>4.1.18</td>
<td>• initiate action to seek funding to support data rescue activities in RA I and other WMO Regions</td>
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| 4.1.23 | • Develop research projects aimed at examining decision processes.  
• Develop projects focussed on climate information rather than predictions. |
| 4.1.24 | • Develop a methodology for formulating and maintaining a statement of the state-of-the-art in climate predictions.  
• Arrange an Expert Group to review research requirements to support climate services.  
• Organise a Working Group to develop user-based verification. |
| 4.1.25 | • Develop further links with CLIVAR and other relevant Programmes to ensure applications focus of research is enhanced. |
| 4.1.26 | • Develop networks of CLIPS Focal Points.  
• Develop the CLIPS Curriculum.  
• Develop training opportunities for Focal Points.  
• Involve Focal Points in applications projects. |
| 4.1.27 | • Facilitate the further development of Climate Forums in a sustainable manner.  
• Encourage the development of consolidation methods. |
| 4.1.28 | • Develop user requirement. |
| 4.1.29 | • Continue to review ethics issue. |
| 4.1.30 | • Development of an Inter-Agency Action Plan for the Showcase Project in Climate and Health, with WHO, UNEP, and other appropriate bodies.  
• Secretary-General to seek extrabudgetary resources to enable full implementation of the WMO activities planned in Phases I and II. |
| 4.1.32 | • Enlist the aid of the International Society of Biometeorology in assembling a well qualified group to steer the creation of a climate and health science plan. |
| 4.1.33 | • Commission for Climatology to adopt a work programme to enhance Members’ capabilities to provide energy-related climate services. |
| 4.1.34 | • President of CCl to coordinate actively with the presidents of CBS, CIMO, CHy and CAS to adopt a work programme to devise and to provide guidelines to enhance Members’ capabilities to effectively monitor the urban atmospheric and hydrologic environment and provide urban-related climate services (particular reference to the potential role of remote sensing).  
• Secretary-General to explore with the Executive Director of Habitat the concept of a series of regional workshops on urban-climate issues. |

**Coordination Activities within the Climate Agenda (agenda item 4.2)**

| 4.2.1 | • Distribute AGCE Report to EC members.  
• Hold second session of AGCE. |
| 4.2.2 | • Ensure coordination between IACCA and EMG. |
| 4.2.5 | • Ensure WMO’s representation in preparatory process for CSD-9. |
| 4.2.6 | • Explore possibility of holding conference in consultation with executive heads of IACCA sponsors.  
• Seek guidance and advice from AGCE on planning process for the conference. |
| 4.2(x) | • Provide scientific and technical support to UNFCCC.  
• Include examination of options relating to research and data collection in the work plan of AGCE. |