



Working together towards strengthened Research and Operations Linkages for Enhancing the use of Climate Information

Joint Session of WMO Commission for Climatology and Joint Scientific Committee for the WCRP

STATEMENT

Antalya, Turkey, 18th February, 2010

We, the experts representing the World Climate Research Programme¹ (WCRP) and the WMO Commission for Climatology (CCI), having met in a Joint Session on 18 February 2010 at Antalya, Turkey, have deliberated on a number of issues of common interest and agree that our joint efforts are critical to comprehensively address the rapidly emerging societal needs for climate services for adaptation and risk management.

The World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3), held from 31 August to 4 September 2009 in Geneva, decided to establish a Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) to strengthen the production, availability, delivery and application of science-based climate monitoring and prediction services. GFCS is designed to mainstream climate science into decision making at all levels and help ensure that every country and every climate-sensitive sector of society is well equipped to access and apply the relevant climate information. GFCS is proposed to have five major components: (i) Observations of the Climate system; (ii) Climate research, modelling and prediction; (iii) a Climate Services Information System; (iv) a Climate User Interface Programme; and (v) Capacity Building.

WCRP has successfully laid the scientific foundation for the current and future climate services. Its research projects, particularly those pursuing the coupled climate and Earth system models, are poised to push the frontiers of climate predictability further. It is recognized that while climate science has advanced significantly during the past three decades, many scientific challenges still remain. Climate research, including understanding, modelling and prediction aspects, helps characterize climate variability and change and to generate quantitative climate predictions and climate projections, on a range of time and space scales, providing a key pillar for the GFCS.

CCI has worked over the years through the World Climate Programme (WCP) and its components (WCASP: World Climate Applications and Services Programme; WCDMP: World Climate Data and Monitoring Programme) to support provision of climate services, including WMO's Climate Information and Prediction Services (CLIPS) project. Climate Services

¹ co-sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Information System (CSIS), as a component of GFCS designed to deliver the climate information that users need, will be based on the three-tiered structure of entities at global, regional and national levels that have been initiated, developed and promoted through collaborative efforts of CCI and Commission for Basic Systems (CBS). They include Global Data Centres and Global Producing Centres of Long Range Forecasts (GPCs) and other global climate prediction centres, Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) and other regional institutions, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and National Climate Services (NCSs), and would be required to be expanded and strengthened under GFCS.

To support the successful implementation of GFCS, WCRP and CCI agree to closely collaborate to address the following topical issues of direct relevance to climate adaptation and risk management in general and the GFCS in particular:

1. Strengthen and mainstream research observations to serve as prototypes for future climate observing systems, in cooperation with GCOS and WIS;
2. develop climate prediction systems with lead times from seasons to centuries;
3. ensure development of reliable high-resolution products needed for climate adaptation and risk management;
4. promote interdisciplinary research to develop sector applications, tools and tailored information;
5. facilitate flow of user requirements to the research community and climate services producers through user feedback;
6. support the RCCs, NCSs and the Climate Outlook Forums (COFs) mechanism as well as consensus assessments (Annual State of the Global Climate);
7. foster links between WMO Regional Associations (RAs), NMHSs, WCP, CCI and WCRP, for regional and national activities
8. improve the availability of highly-skilled talent to undertake climate research, operational prediction, and communication, particularly in the developing countries;

Having benefited from collaboration between WCRP and CCI in the past and in order to further strengthen this collaboration to achieve the above objectives, the WCRP and CCI agree to establish a joint collaborative mechanism and will seek further partnership with other WMO Technical Commissions, Programmes, co-sponsored Programmes, and other Research entities. The cooperative mechanism will include e.g. attendance to respective high level bodies of each entity (WCRP JSC, CCI sessions), organization in common of climate-related events (CCI Technical Conferences, WCRP Open Science Conferences), Joint Expert Teams on issues of common interest (such as the successful existing Joint CCI/CLIVAR/JCOMM ETCCDI), joint publications, etc.
