



e-zine N° 8 – December 2007

News

Climate change irreversible? UN Chief urges Bali breakthrough after dire IPCC report

Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General, says "Today the world's scientists have spoken clearly and with one voice. In Bali I expect the world's policymakers to do the same." [BBC](#); [synthesis](#).

Ministers address observational needs for Earth system research

At the GEO IV Ministerial Summit, Cape Town, 26-30 Nov., the seamless prediction paper of WCRP-WWRP was showcased for Global Earth Observation System of Systems. [GEO extracts](#).

Climate change awareness raising wins 2007 Nobel Peace Prize

The choice of honorees, the IPCC and former US vice president Al Gore, symbolizes the world's growing recognition of the destabilizing effect of failing to tackle climate change. [More](#).

Critical gaps in climate change research & observations identified: Sydney workshop

WCRP, IGBP & GCOS hosted 66 key IPCC science & policy experts in Sydney, 4-6 Oct., to identify critical gaps in climate change science & the use of information for adaptation. [EOS](#).

Sea-level rise threatens vulnerable coastal city populations

Rising sea levels will pose a significant threat to ~1.2 billion people living in mega-cities along the coasts worldwide ([article](#)). See also World Bank [report](#) on impacts on developing nations.

Society benefits from a revolution in Earth system prediction

Scientists within WCRP, IGBP & the World Weather Research Programme have proposed to policy makers and academies the need to establish an Earth-System Prediction Project. [PDF](#).

La Niña well established in eastern equatorial Pacific

Cooler than normal sea temperatures north of Australia are associated with a positive phase of the Indian Ocean Dipole causing unusual climate patterns over parts of Africa & Australia. [Web](#).

Carbon sinks slowdown compounding rapid growth in anthropogenic CO₂ emissions

While anthropogenic emissions due to increased economic growth are on the rise, the natural removal of greenhouse gases is declining, says an ESSP-GCP article published in PNAS. [Article](#).

Capacity building for climate change adaptation for developing nations: WCRP-ICTP

At the WCRP-ICTP seminar held in Trieste, 26-30 Nov., professionals from developing nations learnt to interpret & utilize the wealth of CMIP3 data created for IPCC AR4. Read [PDF](#); [article](#).

World ocean observing success: Argo array achieves initial target

Seven years after its initiation, the international ocean observing array Argo hit its initial target of operating 3,000 robotic floats in ice-free areas of the deep ocean around the world. [Article](#).

"Agencies have climate data-sharing policies but could do better!"

The US Government Accountability Office published a report on the importance of sharing climate data saying much of the data is in hands of individual researchers. Download [report](#).

Climate extreme? Ask the world weather archive for verifying & certifying extremes

Enquiries for consideration whether a weather event is a world/regional record can now be sent to the World Meteorological Organization's Rapporteur for Climate Extremes. [More](#).

Buying carbon offsets reflects responsibility for carbon-climate consequences

A new report published by the ESSP-Global Carbon Project concludes carbon offsets are most beneficial if preceded by the implementation of measures to reduce or avoid emissions. [Report](#).

Young Chilean scientist promotes social approach to climate change after ESSP OSC

Dr Aldunce sees the importance of a social approach to global environmental change. [News](#).

First Earth System Science Partnership Scientific Council held 23-25 October, Paris

Issues addressed included the current ESSP review, vision and strategic planning, and interactions with UN assessments and conventions as well as a new biofuels activity. [Web](#).

Climate change and desertification: research priorities and communication needs

The WCRP co-sponsored Climate Change and Desertification workshop in Wengen, Switzerland, Sept. 2007, prioritised better integrated models & improved cooperation with UNCCD. [Report](#).

Advances in planning for the WCRP-WWRP Year of Tropical Convection (YOTC)

The YOTC Science and Implementation Plan for improved numerical weather forecasts and global climate predictions was discussed & refined 13-14 Nov. in Arlington, Virginia. [Web](#).

New era in climate change research: WCRP CMIP3 multi-model dataset

Sharing is proving very successful. CMIP3's open access is changing the way researchers and students analyze and interpret climate change predictions. Read [article](#) published in BAMS.

Climate prediction applications opportunities: new WCRP/CLIVAR-UCAR programme

Postdocs needed to transfer advances in climate science into decision tools. Apply by [15 Dec.](#)!

Mass extinctions and biodiversity change likely to occur with global warming

Dr Mayhew and colleagues found evidence in fossil records that global biodiversity is related to temperature and predict mass extinctions due to anthropogenic climate warming. Read [article](#).

Better collaboration for the sake of the Asian cryosphere, CliC Symposium, Lanzhou

The 2nd Asia CliC Symposium, 22-26 Oct., encourages better research collaboration. [Statement](#).

World-first research facility dedicated to climate change adaptation

The Australian government has created the world's first national climate change adaptation research facility with funding of over \$50 million to focus on health, water, biodiversity. [More](#).

WMO 2007 Antarctic Ozone Bulletin, biweekly updates available online

At two week intervals, WMO issues an Antarctic Ozone Bulletin with WCRP/SPARC assessment reports providing the scientific bases. www.wmo.int/pages/prog/arep/gawozobull07_en.html.

International Council for Science (ICSU) anniversary report

In its 2006 Annual Report, ICSU included a historical review of its past 75 years. [Report](#).

WCRP review to be chaired by Dr James Baker is starting in January 2008

Sponsors, ICSU, IOC, WMO & the International Group of Funding Agencies, begin review. [Web](#).

China sponsors CLIVAR workshop on western tropical Pacific

The Chinese Academy of Science and the National Natural Science Foundation supported the Hatchery for ENSO and Global Teleconnections [Workshop](#) held in Guanzhou, 26-28 November.

Welcome to the new GEWEX project office's director Dr van Oevelen

Peter van Oevelen, European GEWEX Coordinator and researcher at the ESA Science and Technology Centre in The Netherlands, will be replacing Rick Lawford as of January 2008. [PDF](#).

Latest news from WCRP activities

Read latest news from CLIVAR ([No. 43](#)) and the Working Group on Surface Fluxes ([No. 4](#)).