

**The GCOS Implementation Manager and the GCOS Cooperation Mechanism (GCM)  
– providing an end to end network support service at a global scale.**

GCOS is a long-term, user-driven operational system capable of providing the comprehensive observations required for monitoring the climate system and my role in this is to initiate and manage projects to ensure the data availability at a global scale. The GCOS programme is sponsored by three UN bodies; WMO, IOC of UNESCO and UNEP, and by the International Council for Sciences (ICSU). This multiple sponsorship guarantees that we cover the broad range of climate information required on a global scale and that our work is supported by an international community. In order to understand where our climate is headed, we need to know where it has been in the past and where it is now and our observational networks are critical in helping to answer these questions. I see myself as an international network manager, linking funding from our sponsors to priority areas, both in terms of the uniqueness of measurement (i.e. location, content) and the financial challenges for the host organisation in operating the equipment. GCOS does not own any of the observing equipment but through the GCM it aims to support National services and institutes, in the design, installation and operational management of their systems. Just providing a voice at the end of a telephone line (or these days an Email reply) can make such a difference in keeping these systems running.

Both Instrumentation experts and Industry provides a significant role in the complex cycle of observing systems; it is their expertises in the field, and of their own equipment, that is one of the key components to the long-term success in operations of the observing equipment. High quality measurement and sustainability are fundamental in support of climate services and only by collaborating with experts and industry can GCOS, and the National owners, hope to meet the challenges of the climate requirements.