



ICSU
International Council for Science

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Science Highlights

WCRP 2007-2008 Accomplishment Report: Climate Research in Service to Society

The WCRP Annual Report chronicles WCRP accomplishments in 2007/2008. Download the report ([PDF](#)) or request hard copy from the WCRP secretariat: wcrp@wmo.int.

CLIVAR endorses Southwest Pacific Ocean Circulation-Climate Experiment (SPICE)

SPICE focuses on the role of ocean circulation in the large-scale, low-frequency modulation of climate from the Tasman Sea to the equator to improve local to regional forecasts. [More](#).

CMIP5: Preparing Climate Simulations and Projections for the IPCC Fifth Assessment

The WCRP Working Group on Coupled Modelling held a historic meeting in Paris, France, Sept. 2008, to advance the next climate model intercomparison project, CMIP5. Read [feature article](#).

Baseline Surface Radiation Network (BSRN) Essential for Global Dimming Research

At the 10th BSRN Scientific Review held in De Bilt, NL, July 2008, the use of BSRN data in research on Earth's radiation balance and global dimming/brightening was highlighted. [More](#).

SPARC General Assembly: Frontiers of Atmospheric Chemistry Research

At its Fourth General Assembly held in Bologna, Italy, Sept. 2008, the WCRP-SPARC project presented latest scientific achievements in stratospheric research ([feature article](#)). SPARC is inviting the atmospheric community to participate in discussions on its research agenda. [More](#).

Reinvigorating Weather/Climate Model Parameterization Research

GEWEX and the Working Group on Numerical Experimentation (WGNE) have joined forces to improve parameterization activities envisioning a new WMO expert group. [GEWEX news](#), p. 6.

International Polar Day: Above the Poles, 4 December 2008

On the occasion of the 7th International Polar Day during International Polar Year 2007-2008, SPARC prepared educative background material on stratospheric ozone and polar vortex. [More](#).

First WMO/WCRP/IPY Workshop held on Polar Regions, St. Petersburg, Sept. 2008

The event identified requirements for climate products/services and technical training. [More](#).

International Council for Science (ICSU) Launches new Research Initiatives

At its 29th General Assembly, ICSU announced the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) and Ecosystem Change and Human Well-being research programmes. [Press releases](#).

Europe-South America Network for Climate Change Assessment and Impact Studies

The project CLARIS in La Plata Basin ([LPB](#)), funded by the EC 7th Framework programme, was launched during a major kick-off meeting held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Nov. 2008. [More](#).

Latest Developments in Seamless Prediction Research and Ensemble Forecasting

At a joint GEWEX-WGNE meeting held in Montreal, Canada, Nov. 2008, advances in modelling hydrological processes and precipitation intercomparison activities were discussed. Find [talks](#).

Improving Representation of (Sub)tropical Cloud/Precipitation Processes

Ongoing GEWEX study evaluates model cloud parameterizations for Pacific cross-section. [More](#).

People

CLIC Scientific Steering Committee Member Receives 2008 IMO Prize

Professor Qin Dahe was awarded the 53rd International Meteorological Organization Prize. [More](#).

Prof. Ramaswamy Appointed Director of U.S. Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory

Dr Ramaswamy ('Ram') is Officer of the WCRP Joint Scientific Committee (JSC). [More](#).

ESSP-Consultative Group on Agriculture Programme to be Chaired by Prof. Rosswall

The CGIAR Challenge Programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security to be launched in 2009 will be chaired by Thomas Rosswall, current ICSU Executive Director. [More](#).

New ICSU Leaders: Professors Deliang Chen and Yuan Tseh Lee

Deliang Chen, Chinese meteorologist from the Swedish University of Gothenburg, will take up his duties as ICSU Executive Director on 1 Feb. 2009 ([more](#)). Yuan Tseh Lee, Nobel Prize winning chemist, will serve as President of ICSU as of April 2010 ([more](#)).

Publications

WMO Update on El Niño/La Niña in the Tropical Pacific, November 2008

El Niño/La Niña conditions are expected to stay near-neutral until March 2009. [More](#).

Climate Data Records: A Major Concern at the Third WOAP Meeting, September 2008

Find [report](#) of the Third WCRP Observation and Assimilation Panel meeting held in Boulder, US.

EOS Transactions: Sustained Arctic Observations

The [EOS article](#) by Keith Alverson ([IOC-UNESCO](#)) highlights the need for sustained/integrated monitoring of the Arctic system in order to address Arctic vulnerability to climate change.

New Journal of Advances in Modeling Earth Systems (JAMES) Solicits Contributions

[JAMES](#) is an international, open-access scientific journal for publication of peer-reviewed research articles including articles on policy and science education related to climate science.

From VOCALS to Action: CLIVAR-VAMOS Ocean-Cloud-Atmosphere-Land Study

The team of scientists under [VOCALS](#) plan to shed light on how clouds over the Pacific Ocean are affecting global climate and weather systems. Read [BBC News](#) article.

Quantifying and Reducing Uncertainties in High Resolution Proxy Climate Data

The report from the PAGES/CLIVAR Workshop held in June in Trieste, Italy is now online ([PDF](#)).

IGBP Examines Role of Aerosols in Climate

The study led by the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme ([IGBP](#)) proposes a new framework to better account for the effects of aerosols on precipitation in models. [More](#).

Temperature Increase of 21st Century Mitigation Scenarios

A [PNAS-published study](#) used new mitigation scenarios that project a 1.4°C-increase by 2100.

ESSP Global Carbon Project (GCP) Publication on 2007 Carbon Budget and Trends

Despite global efforts to curb emissions anthropogenic CO₂ is growing faster than ever. [More](#).

Latest News from WCRP Activities and Projects

Issued recently: CLIVAR ([No.47](#)), CLIC ([No.11](#)), GEWEX ([Vol.18/4](#)), SPARC ([No.31](#)).

Events

Future Climate-Change Response: Learning from IPCC AR4, Jan. 2009, Amsterdam

The four global environmental change (GEC) programmes including WCRP, in collaboration with IPCC and the Netherlands Global Change Committee, meet on 21-23 January to discuss major research questions in order to guide GEC research agendas. Request info by [email](#).