



ICSU  
International Council for Science

e-zine N° 9 – March 2008

## New Faces

### Welcome to the new Director of the WCRP Joint Planning Staff

Dr. Ghassem Asrar was Associate Administrator for Earth Science at NASA and subsequently served as Deputy Administrator for Natural Resources and Sustainable Agricultural Systems at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He will take up his duties in mid March. [More](#).

## News

### UN calls for immediate action to overcome climate change

The UN General Assembly (11-13 Feb. 2008, New York) urged immediate steps and changes in behaviour by everyone to address the danger of climate change. "Individuals should not feel disempowered by the scale of the challenge" said Assembly President Srgjam. [More](#).

### Proposed roadmap for improving skill in seasonal prediction and setting priorities

A Position Paper of the First WCRP Seasonal Prediction Workshop (4-7 June 2007, Barcelona) has been issued outlining a set of specific recommendations for improving seasonal prediction skill and enhancing the use of seasonal prediction information for societal benefit. [Report](#).

### WMO reorganization creates new research department

As of January 2008 the new WMO research department includes WCRP Joint Planning Staff and the Atmospheric Research and Environment Branch. WCRP has strong research ties to the WCRP Global Atmosphere Watch and THORPEX. WMO [organigram](#).

### 2007 UNESCO Great Man-Made River International Water Prize

The Prize was awarded to the Irvine Center for Hydrometeorology and Remote Sensing (CHRS) and Arizona Center for Sustainability of Semi-arid Hydrology and Riparian Areas (SAHRA). Both centers are led by WCRP/GEWEX scientists Sorooshian and Shuttleworth. [More](#).

### Call for investment in research at the UN Climate Summit in Bali

At the December 2007 Climate Change Conference, WMO Secretary-General called for more investment in climate predictions, monitoring and scientific research; [press release](#). WCRP Chair John Church spoke on reducing uncertainties in climate predictions; [presentation](#).

### Swedish Professor Emeritus Bert Bolin has died

The world-renowned meteorologist was the first Chairman of the Global Atmospheric Research Programme (GARP) in 1967 which led to the establishment of the WCRP in 1980. [More](#).

### State and fate of the polar cryosphere and variability of the Arctic hydrological cycle

The latest overview on the polar cryosphere, written by Barry Goodison, Chair of WCRP/CliC, and colleagues, was published in the October 2007 issue of the WMO bulletin. [Article](#); on [GCW](#).

### WMO statement on the global status of climate in 2007

The decade of 1998-2007 is the warmest on record, according to the WMO statement. [More](#).

### Sea-level rise and global climate change, 2007 updates

Latest research shows that the 2006/2007 global averaged sea level is about 200 mm higher than in 1870 and that since then the rate of rise has accelerated significantly. [Article](#).

### **Antarctic ice loss speeds up nearly matching Greenland ice sheet loss**

Ice loss in Antarctica increased by 75 per cent in the last 10 years, according to an international team led by Eric Rignot of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. [More](#).

### **BALTEX book publication: Assessment of climate change for the Baltic Sea basin**

The book presents the first comprehensive survey of past and possible future climate change in the Baltic Sea region. The survey was conducted by the GEWEX/Baltic Sea Experiment. [More](#).

### **Critical gaps in climate change research and observations identified**

The WCRP/IGBP/GCOS Sydney workshop (held in October 2007) report is now available. [PDF](#).

### **Advanced Institute on The Asian Monsoon: Prediction of Change and Variability**

The START event held 2-11 Jan. 2008 in Honolulu, Hawaii, brought together 19 early career scientists to learn about new scientific advances in monsoon research. Read workshop [material](#).

### **Recommendations on carbon reductions and offsets**

The ESSP Global Carbon Project issued a report with a number of recommendations for individuals and institutions interested in purchasing carbon offsets. Download [report](#).

### **IOC signed agreement to upgrade the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System**

The agreement with Immarsat, the leading provider of global mobile satellite communications, will enhance transmission of sea level observations to 50 stations in the Indian Ocean. [More](#).

### **What are the mechanisms behind recent climate change in the Arctic and Antarctic?**

The WCRP/CliC workshop on Recent High Latitude Climate Change, 22-24 October 2007, Seattle WA, addressed questions such as: Why do we have contrasting changes taking place in the Arctic and Antarctic? What is causing sea ice to decrease so rapidly? [Report](#).

### **Science Plan for the WCRP Asian Monsoon Years initiative for the period 2007-2012**

A background document and AMY Science Plan for this new WCRP initiative is available [here](#).

### **New 49-year global air-sea flux analysis**

The Objectively Analyzed Air-sea Flux (OAFlux) project announced the release of multidecade, global analysis for latent and sensible heat fluxes and ocean evaporation. [More](#).

### **Latest news from WCRP activities**

Read the latest newsletters from CLIVAR ([No. 44](#)), CliC ([No. 10](#)), GEWEX ([Vol. 17](#)), SPARC ([No. 30](#)), the Working Group on Surface Fluxes ([Vol. 5](#)) and SOLAS ([Vol. 6](#)).

## **Events**

### **WCRP/ICTP Regional Climate Model (RCM) Workshop, March 2008, Trieste, Italy**

The aim is to apply RCMs to developing nations in support of climate change assessment. [More](#).

### **Climate Driving of Marine Ecosystem Changes, April 2008, Brest, France**

The IGBP/WCRP training workshop for young marine scientists has a special focus on impacts of climate variability on the marine environment. [More](#).

### **World Modelling Summit for Climate Prediction, May 2008, Reading, UK**

The event aims at preparing a blueprint to launch a revolution in climate prediction. [More](#).

### **Effects of Climate Change on the World's Oceans, May 2008, Gijon, Spain**

Symposium convener John Church invites to discussions on changes in ocean climate. [More](#).

### **Summer school on El Niño-Southern Oscillation, June 2008, Puna, Hawaii, USA**

Early career scientists are invited to apply for the WCRP-sponsored event until 15 March. [More](#).

### **IGBP/IGAC Conference on Atmospheric Chemistry, September 2008, Annecy, France**

Deadline for young scientists to apply for financial support is 31 March. [More](#).