



Selected highlights:

FRIDAY

The World Climate Research Program Open Science Conference
Full Agenda: <http://www.wcrp-climate.org/conference2011/structure.html>

Morning Plenaries

Climate and Public Health (Madeleine Thomson, IRI, Columbia University). Although climate is only one of the many drivers of both infectious and non-infectious disease, public health policy makers and practitioners are increasingly concerned about the potential impact of climate change on the health of populations. In the MERIT initiative, health, climate and environment specialists are working to help address a pressing health problem in Africa.

Meeting User Needs (Bruce Hewitson, University of Capetown). Delivering information that is actionable in decision making is a complex challenge requiring partnership, understanding, and enhanced awareness between researcher and stakeholder. This talk describes an emerging approach to this challenge, building tailored climate messages that are scientifically valid and robust enough to warrant use in a decision framework.

Additional Morning Focus

The chairs of three Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) working groups will discuss how to strengthen the policy relevance of scientific assessments.

The Conference will close at 1 p.m. following a summary of the week's findings and a discussion of the way forward for the WCRP.