

Global Seasonal Climate Update: A new initiative for consensus-based real-time monitoring and prediction of seasonal climate of the world

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WMO has been issuing consensus-based El Niño/La Niña Updates on a quasi-regular basis over the past more than a decade, providing useful information on these events of significant importance to regional climate impacts. There has been a widely expressed need to expand on these products, to provide more comprehensive information on the seasonal climate, including the consideration of other large-scale indices having regional impacts. There have been rapid advances in seasonal prediction in recent years, and a number of centres are routinely producing operational seasonal predictions. It is considered important that the available multiple sources of monitoring and prediction products be appropriately consolidated, synthesized and communicated to the society as a consensus-based update, including the aspects of the robustness as well as uncertainty in the available information. Accordingly, the concept for a Global Seasonal Climate Update (GSCU) has been elaborated. The GSCU, with a vision to be issued on a regular basis by WMO, is expected to summarise the current status (monitoring) and the expected future behaviour (prediction) of major general circulation features and large-scale oceanic anomalies around the globe (e.g., ENSO, North Atlantic Oscillation, Indian Ocean Dipole, etc.) and to discuss briefly their likely impacts on continental-scale temperature and precipitation patterns. The GSCU is proposed to be designed, and thereby standardised, in a way that allows for comparing qualitatively the climate monitoring results of the current issue with the respective climate outlook issued in the previous issue. It is envisaged that the GSCUs would be issued a few days ahead of the typical seasons and could be generated through a consensus among experts from Global Producing Centres of Long Range Forecasts (GPCs), monitoring centres and Regional Climate Centres (RCCs). Inclusion of RCCs in the consensus process will be important to facilitate harmonisation with regional/national outlooks. GSCUs are expected to be used primarily by RCCs, Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs) and NMHSs in order to elaborate regional and national climate updates, and also by global user communities as well as the general public. Through the combination of monitoring and prediction components, GSCUs will help promote early awareness of potential climate 'hotspot' regions. This will help direct users to the products of RCCs, RCOFs and NMHSs in the impacted regions for more spatio-temporal detail and more frequent updates. This poster will describe the proposed content of the GSCU, and mechanisms for its operational production.