

The 18th Session of the CLIVAR Scientific Steering Group: Addressing the Need for Science-Based Climate Services

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The 18th Session of the CLIVAR Scientific Steering Group (SSG-18) was held at the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) in Paris, France, from the 2nd to 6th May 2011. Dr. Jim Hurrell and Professor Martin Visbeck, SSG co-chairs, led the meeting of 37 participants, comprised of core SSG members, chairs or representatives of CLIVAR Panels and Working Groups, representatives of the other WCRP projects, and other invitees.

The SSG was updated on developments of the CLIVAR Panels and Working Groups, the CLIVAR Project Office, and other WCRP core projects. Developments at the WCRP level – including the status of the Open Science Conference – were also reviewed, along with activities of other national and international programmes (e.g. European Space Agency, IGBP, US CLIVAR, and CLIVAR Spain). The meeting also provided a forum to discuss the WCRP restructuring process, in terms of the evolution of CLIVAR and its interactions with other WCRP projects, international research programmes, and regional activities. WCRP Grand Challenges, and CLIVAR's role in providing the science base for Climate Services, were also addressed. A synthesis of these discussions developed by writing teams will be presented to the 33rd Session of the WCRP Joint Scientific Committee, subsequent to the WCRP Open Science Conference.

The SSG participants extend their thanks to the local organizers, Ms. Forest Collins and Dr. Albert Fischer, for all their efforts in ensuring that the meeting was an extremely successful and sociable event.