

## **Dr. Michel Rixen new member of the WCRP Joint Planning Staff**

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WCRP welcomes Dr. Michel Rixen who is being appointed to the post of modeling and observations at the WCRP secretariat in Geneva, effective September 2011.

Dr. Rixen received his M.S. degrees in Computer Sciences (1991), Oceanography (1995), Applied Mathematics (1996), Environmental Sciences (1997), a High School Professorship accreditation (1995) and a Ph. D. degree in Physics (Oceanography) (1999), all from the University of Liège, Belgium. He is currently enrolled in an Executive Master of Business Administration at the International University of Monaco.

He was awarded a Marie Curie fellowship by the European Union to conduct research at the Southampton Oceanography Centre from 2001 to 2003 after which he joined the NATO Undersea Research Centre (NURC) in La Spezia where he has been managing the Meteorology and Oceanography program from 2007 to 2011 and was the recipient of an award for exceptional meritorious service.

Dr. Rixen served as an expert for the UNESCO IOC/IODE and UNEP/WMO IPCC, the European Commission 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Program, the Belgian National Fund for Scientific Research, the United Kingdom Natural Environment Research Council, and the Israel Science Foundation.

His research interest and expertise includes Operational Oceanography and Meteorology, Climate Research and Earth Observations, with a strong focus on sensors and platforms, numerical modelling, data analysis and assimilation, artificial intelligence, decision support, and communication and information technology.

Dr. Rixen has led and been involved in numerous EC, NATO, ESA, NASA and ONR projects and has conducted several inter-disciplinary experiments at sea as scientist in charge. He has published 5 books as a guest editor and more than 55 peer-reviewed papers, and has been organizing and chairing many international scientific conferences.

He is an associate editor of the Journal of Operational Oceanography and the International Journal of Oceanography, and currently serves as the Secretary for Operational Oceanography at the European Geosciences Union.