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WCRP hosting Young Earth System Scientists community

Dear Tony and other members of the JSC, respectively the WCRP governance,

The Young Earth System Scientists community (YESS) has grown over the last three years, starting in Germany and growing abroad, and I enthusiastically support their initiative of bottom-up organization of activities by young scientists for other young scientists. YESS has identified gaps in the existing landscape of early career related networks and has organized a number of relevant and well-received activities, from small seminars on career opportunities, to informal local meetings at big conferences, to their own conference, the Interdisciplinary Conference of Young Earth System Scientists 2013. (A BAMS meeting summary is accepted and will appear shortly). Indeed just today my department benefitted from an initiative of YESS to advance a discussion on what constitutes good scientific practice.

YESS originated within the community of PhD students from Germany's many Earth Science oriented graduate schools, including PhD candidates from our own International Max Planck Research School on Earth System Science, and has maintained a focus on activities that are complimentary to existing programs and networks – and that are in demand by the early career community itself. YESS has been institutionally independent until to now, with support on a project basis from a variety of different foundations, agencies and universities in Germany. Endorsement from WCRP would help the merged YESS/CLIVAR network to reach out to a wider group of young scientists while allowing the internal structure to still reflect the bottom-up approach within the community. I would actually like to see YESS incorporated as a formal, but independent, structure within WCRP as I believe this would help strengthen the WCRP community, and nurture a generation of scientists who could contribute to and help build a stronger WCRP.



As a minimum having WCRP host YESS would help provide the organizational superstructure that can help YESS be successful. But from a WCRP perspective, I think incorporating YESS within WCRP in some fashion gives WCRP access to young scientists, their energy, creativity and ideas, and is an opportunity that WCRP should and must capitalize upon. To be blunt the opportunity for WCRP to host YESS is a great opportunity for WCRP, even if it is perceived as something that would help YESS.

With my best wishes,

Bjorn Stevens



Wednesday, 19 March 2014

Dear WCRP JSC,

I am writing this letter in support of the proposal for the WCRP to support an Early Career Scientist network consisting of the current CLIVAR ECS activity and the Young Earth System Scientists (YESS) community.

I got to know about YESS through a presentation at a summer school in 2013 and met representatives of the YESS leadership during a visit to Hamburg later that year. YESS is an impressive initiative. It is built and run by young earth system scientists for young earth system scientists on a voluntary and independent basis. It attracts a large number of keen and active young scientists, who organise meetings and conferences and provide a platform for discussions.

After its initial growth the YESS community is now ready to become an international and overarching network for early career scientists in the earth system science. At the same time CLIVAR has developed an Early Career Scientists initiative, with much the same goals as YESS. Bringing these two initiatives together in a common network under the umbrella of the WCRP would in my view be of tremendous value to both the Early Career Scientists and the WCRP. I therefore strongly support the proposal by both groups to merge and become a recognised WCRP-wide activity.

As climate change and the earth system is not just a science issue, the interdisciplinary approach of the YESS network in particular will provide great connectivity across communities within and beyond the WCRP. Already today YESS brings together young scholars from various disciplines within the earth system science, including socio-economic fields. This attempt to foster interdisciplinary collaboration and discussion will become even more important in the future. I am looking forward to the JSC's support of this important initiative as well as to the future interactions with the Early Career Scientists.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Christian Jakob'.

Christian Jakob

Co-Chair, WCRP Modeling Advisory Council
Professor of Climate Modelling, School of Mathematical Sciences, Monash University