3.2: Report on Climate Research Forums

**Purpose:** To report on status and future of Climate Research Forums
- Goal and status
- Key findings
- Options for Future Forums
- Next steps

**Acknowledgements:**
- WCRP Secretariat - Beatriz Balino, Narelle van der Wel and Hindumathi Palanisamy - for the data analysis and, with Nico Caltabiano, for organising all the Forums.
- The Regional Focal Points for their energy and expert advice in designing and running each of the Forums.

**Duration:** 20 (10 + 10) mins

**Chairs:** Helen Cleugh and Detlef Stammer

**Rapporteur:** Hindumathi Palanisamy

**Chat Moderator:** Narelle van der Wel
A series of regionally based online “Climate Research Forums” (CRFs) in response to feedback that WCRP’s broader scientific community were not that familiar with WCRP’s new Strategic Plan and science initiatives.

Broad aims were to:

- Inform community about the new WCRP and seek their feedback, especially on the Lighthouse activities.
- Exchange ideas and discuss new activities and opportunities.
- Explore ways that our community of scientists, partner programs, funders and end-users of climate science can better engage.
Climate Research Forums: Status

Eastern Asia Forum participants:
- 70% from China, Republic of Korea and Japan
- From 40 nations, including: Mongolia, Myanmar, Russian Federation, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Indonesia and Pakistan.
7 Forums, engaging an audience of almost 1900 people from around the world.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Australia</th>
<th>Eastern Asia</th>
<th>North &amp; Central America, Caribbean and Greenland</th>
<th>Southeast Asia</th>
<th>Europe and Western Asia</th>
<th>South America</th>
<th>Southern Asia</th>
<th>Sum</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Registered</td>
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<td>434</td>
<td>404</td>
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<td>268</td>
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<td>277</td>
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<td>501</td>
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<td>1898</td>
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<tr>
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<td>46%</td>
<td>69%</td>
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<td>93%</td>
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<tr>
<td>attending</td>
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<td>2.5</td>
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<td>Apr 7</td>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>Jun 9</td>
<td>Sep 8 &amp; 9</td>
<td>Nov 30</td>
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</table>
Climate Research Forums: Some key findings

**Are you aware of WCRP?**

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Bar chart showing awareness of WCRP in different regions:
- Eastern Asia: 80%
- Southeast Asia/SEA: 80%
- Southern Asia: 80%
- N/C Americas, Caribbean, & Greenland: 80%
- S. America: 80%
- Europe & W. Asia: 80%

Pie chart showing overall awareness of WCRP:
- 80% Knew about WCRP
- 20% Unaware of WCRP

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Is WCRP addressing critical science questions (sli.do)?

- **Southeast Asia**: WCRP goals address climate information needs (80%), LHA address critical science questions (60%).
- **Southern Asia**: WCRP goals address climate information needs (80%), LHA address critical science questions (60%).
- **N/C Americas, Caribbean & Greenland**: WCRP goals address climate information needs (100%), LHA address critical science questions (60%).
- **S. America**: WCRP goals address climate information needs (100%), LHA address critical science questions (20%).
Climate Research Forums: Some key findings

What areas of WCRP science are important to you?

- Strong interest in CORDEX, CLIVAR and education and capacity-building in Asia and South America, followed by GEWEX, ESMO and RIfS.
- Lighthouse Activities popular across Europe and Western Asia and in South America: over 40% were interested in My Climate Risk, and the new ESMO and RIfS Core Projects.
- 69% of South America Forum attendees said RIfS was beneficial for climate research in the region.
Climate Research Forums: Some key findings

Where can WCRP make a difference to climate research in your region?

- Southeast Asia
- Southern Asia
- N/C Americas, Caribbean & Greenland
- S. America

- Better coordination of climate-related activities
- By providing leadership
- By providing climate information
- By targeting user needs and addressing them
- By providing training in climate science
Ways to increase the participation of regional scientists in WCRP – Southeast Asia, Southern Asia and South America

**Southeast Asia**

1. Networking activities: 1.57
2. Capacity exchange and education: 1.36
3. Conferences and workshops: 1.27

**Southern Asia**

1. Education/capacity building/Early Career Scientists: 5.44
2. Conferences and Workshops: 4.44
3. Networking activities: 4.27
4. Regions/Assessments, Gap analyses: 3.18

**South America**

1. Collaborative networks/Redes colaborativas: 3.19
2. Training courses/Cursos de formación: 2.58
3. Exchange programs/Programas de intercambio: 2.36
4. Discussion forums/Foros de discusión: 1.78
## Options for Future Forums

### Pause or continue?
- Original purpose mostly (but not completely) met.
- Supported additional global engagement (strategic goal).
- Requires dedicated resourcing and an identified need and purpose.

### Format and Expertise for future Forums
- “Template” for future forums – regular or “as needed”.
- Opportunity for spin-off Forums that WCRP family can utilise.
- Regional Focal Points (RFPs) are knowledgeable experts and should be encouraged to engage in future events.

### Alignment (WCRP Strategic Plan and Implementation)
- Regionally based forums need a structural home – most likely RIfS.
- Alignment with My Climate Risk and Academy Lighthouses noted.
- Close interaction with WCRP Secretariat and other IPOs important.

### Resourcing
- Skilled and dedicated staff needed ~ 0.5 -1 FTE.
- Within WCRP Secretariat and/or a RIfS IPO.
- Requires sponsorship and fund-raising.
Next steps

1. **Share Report** with JSC and WCRP Core science activities.

2. **For all Regions and RFPs**, explore with OSC Science Organising Committee what role the RFPs might have in the lead-up to OSC-2023.

3. **Follow-up** with the Regional Focal Point groups:
   
   a) **Regions where the first Forums have been delivered**: i) review the feedback received; ii) discuss the findings and recommendations in this Report; and iii) discuss what requirements might exist from WCRP’s core activities and the regions for follow-up activities.
   
   b) **Oceania – NZ and Pacific**: Continue to explore interest in an event in 2022/2023 (possibly as a lead-up to the Open Science Conference) with RFPs, interested agencies and LHAs.
   
   c) **Africa**: Reactivate engagement with the RFPs and explore ideas ahead of OSC 2023.

4. **JSC to review Draft Recommendations**
JSC are encouraged to note:

- First phase of regional consultations has mostly achieved its aims (from JSC-41).
- The approach was an effective, and relatively cost-effective way, to conduct engagement in the regions around the world.
- Feedback and lessons learned, as captured in Sections 2 and 3 of the Report.

Draft recommendations to JSC:

1. Retain RFP groups, at least to end 2023, to potentially support OSC-2023. The JSC Chairs will write to the RFPs: thanking them, confirming this commitment and explaining the follow-up actions over this time.

2. Discussions: a) with RIfS re. “joint ownership” of Forums (with WCRP Secretariat); and b) with My Climate Risk and Academy LHAs – to identify synergies and possible joint activities.

3. Explore need for an “Engagement and Relationship Manager” within the WCRP Secretariat including the role purpose, accountability, appropriate time allocation, and benefits. This person / role would:
   - Have external (funders and partners) and internal (liaising with WCRP core activities) elements.
   - Be closely overseen by the JSC Chair and Head of the WCRP Secretariat.

4. The JSC Vice Chair to work with the WCRP Secretariat to complete the Actions identified.

5. WCRP Secretariat to ensure adequate communication with WCRP core activities about final (approved) recommendations and actions.
Options for Future Forums

What are the options for future CRFs? Some considerations ….

**Pause or continue?**
- Original purpose been largely met - enabling WCRP to enhance its global engagement as identified Strategic Plan..
- Requires dedicated resourcing, so pause until future need identified?

**Format for future Forums**
- A “template” for future forums – either regularly (e.g. annually) or “as needed”, with improvements as described in Report.
- Opportunity for spin-off Forums.

**Alignment**
(WCRP Strategic Plan and Implementation)
- Regionally based forums need to reside in a Core Project – most likely RiFs.
- Alignment with My Climate Risk and Academy Lighthouses also noted.
- Close interaction with WCRP Secretariat and other IPOs important.

**Resourcing**
- Skilled and dedicated staff (0.5 -1 FTE), within WCRP Secretariat and/or a RiFs IPO. Fund-raising or sponsorship therefore needed.
- “Engagement and Relationship Manager” within WCRP Secretariat?