

47th Session of the WCRP Joint Scientific Committee (JSC)

Update report for the WCRP Joint Scientific Committee

WCRP Academy

1. Key highlights since the last JSC meeting (May 2025)

1.1 WCRP Leadership Development Workshop

Officially launching its long-term Future Leaders Programme, the WCRP Academy held its WCRP Leadership Development Workshop in Cape Town, South Africa, and online from September 12 to 13, 2025. This hybrid event gathered capacity-building experts and climate scientists from around the world, obtaining insights from 18 onsite and 6 online participants representing key institutions across various regions. Figure 1 illustrates the geographical representation of workshop participants based on their university affiliation.

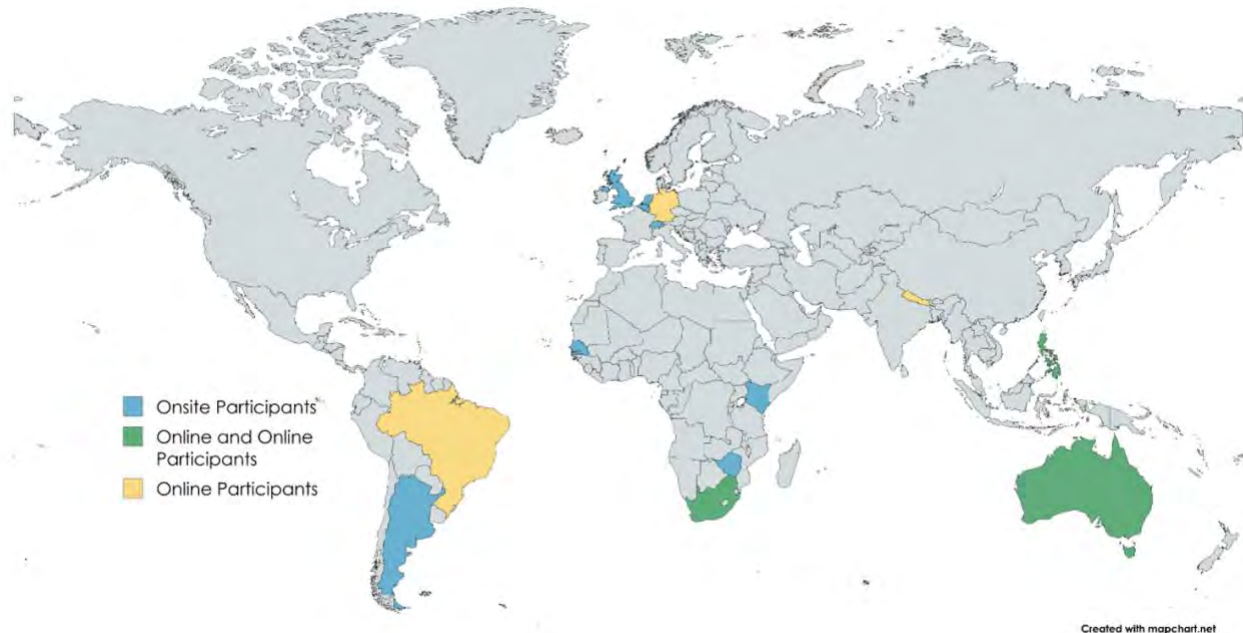


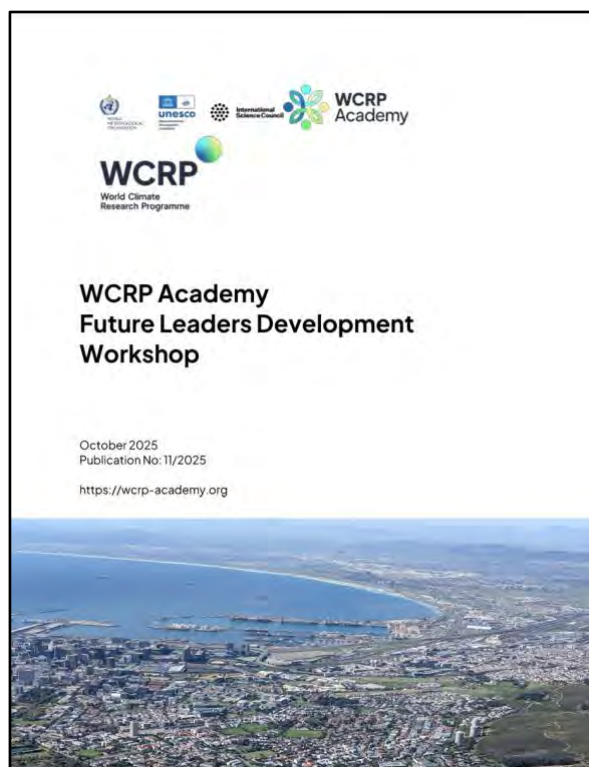
Figure 1. The geographical representation of the workshop participants based on their current university affiliation.

The workshop was designed to empower participants to share their respective experiences in the fields of capacity development and climate leadership. Through these rich exchanges, the workshop highlighted that the climate crisis cannot be distanced from complex developmental challenges; thus, climate scientists must also be capacitated to become effective leaders who can collaborate with practitioners and empower communities. Moreover, while there are many available training opportunities for increasing technical capacity, there is so far little to no support available for developing leadership values and skills within WCRP and the larger climate science community. These include invaluable competencies related to science communication, effective and inclusive leadership, and navigating power dynamics in an organizational setting.

Building on these collective reflection points, the workshop facilitated activities that would allow participants to create initiatives that could be integrated into the Future Leaders Programme of the Academy. The following activities were formulated:

- A **mentorship programme** is critical, but this will only be effective if mentors are capacitated to become effective in providing guidance and support.
- A **personal development component** must be integrated, serving as the basis of the leadership training programme.
- Mentorship, personal development, and leadership resources can be developed into **training modules**, which will serve as critical toolkits for capacitating individuals.

In all these, the principles of equity and inclusion were highlighted as core pillars of the programme.



Workshop Report: https://wcrp-academy.org/academy_file/wcrp-academy-future-leaders-development-workshop/

1.2 Promoted climate science training and Global South Inclusion in various regional events

In the past year, WCRP Academy has participated in various regional events to promote climate science training and raise awareness regarding the importance of climate literacy as a key solution for resilience building.

- **COP30 in Brazil (onsite)**

In partnership with the Manila Observatory, the WCRP Academy hosted a side event at the COP30 ASEAN pavilion, entitled “Resilience through Literacy: Strengthening Climate Science Education in ASEAN.” This session explored how climate literacy - at the regional, national, sub-national, and local levels - can support the Global Goal on Adaptation, particularly in the Southeast Asian region. By gathering capacity-building and adaptation experts mainly from the region, the link between climate literacy and adaptation was highlighted and reinforced, supporting the theme of COP30.



Figure 2. Poster for the COP30 Side Session co-hosted by WCRP Academy and the Manila Observatory

- **Asia Oceania Geosciences Society Annual Meeting (AOGS 2025) in Singapore (onsite)**

The WCRP Academy, represented by two scientific steering group (SSG) members, one support unit (SU) staff and a co-chair, participated in the AOGS Annual Meeting and conference in Singapore. As a gathering of academics and researchers from the Asia-Oceania

region and beyond, the event was an opportunity to enhance the visibility of the Academy in the academic community. In line with this, the Academy presented a paper entitled, “Advancing Geosciences through Accessible and Diverse Learning Platforms: An Analysis of the World Climate Research Program Academy’s Catalogue,” which highlighted the role of the training catalogue in further capacitating climate scientists and actors.

- **Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation (APAN) Forum in Thailand (onsite)**

The APAN Forum, serving as an important gathering of adaptation practitioners in the Asia-Pacific region, was an opportunity for the Academy to extend its services to actors working in the field of adaptation. As the Academy strives to capacitate a broad range of climate actors, including adaptation researchers and practitioners, there were efforts to actively participate in side sessions, engage in networking events, and set up meetings with partners throughout the conference.

- **International Vietnam Conference on Earth and Environmental Sciences (IVCEES) in Vietnam (onsite)**

The 5th IVCEES served as the host of the Asia Climate Risk and Impact Strategic Workshop, which was co-organised by the Coordinated Regional Climate Downscaling Experiment (CORDEX), Regional Information for Society (RiFS), and the My Climate Risk (MCR) Lighthouse Activity of WCRP, among other partners. The Academy was invited to join and lead some components of the workshop, particularly by leading the panel discussion on best practices on developing training programmes and knowledge products.

- **Regional Climate Change Conference (RCCC) 2025 in Sri Lanka (online)**

The WCRP Academy participated in the RCCC 2025, which focused on “The Intersection of Climate Science, Adaptation, and Climate Financing: Focus on the Global South and Inclusivity.” Recognising the important role of advancing climate literacy in the Global South to pursue adaptation, the Academy presented a paper entitled, “Accessibility and Inclusivity of Climate Science Education: Perspectives from WCRP Academy.” This explored the Academy’s global stocktake findings, catalogue monitoring activities, and social media campaigns as strategies to respond to climate change in the region.

- **AUN-EEC in the Philippines (onsite)**

The WCRP Academy delivered a poster presentation of its catalogue analysis at the 2025 ASEAN University Network on Ecological Education and Culture (AUN-EEC) Conference on Ecological Education and Culture, with the theme “Room Temperature: Current Responses and Actions in Climate Change Education.” The conference aimed to increase awareness and strengthen action on climate change education, encourage collaboration among different participants, spark conversations and collaborations on promoting climate change education and climate information systems, and promote the exchange of knowledge, information, and resources.

- **Climate and Cryosphere Open Science Conference (CliC OSC) in New Zealand (onsite)**

The CliC Open Science Conference, bringing together various researchers, practitioners, and stakeholders at the nexus of climate and cryosphere, was a key opportunity for the Academy

to further enhance its visibility in WCRP-organised activities. Thus, the Academy presented a poster, which contained the Academy's objectives, its website and training catalogue, and its WCRP Future Leaders Programme.

- **EGU General Assembly in Austria (onsite)**

The WCRP Academy presented its objectives, recent stocktake results, insights from its website, and future plans at the European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly. This event brought together scientists from around the world in a single meeting covering all disciplines of Earth, planetary, and space sciences. It provided a valuable forum for scientists—especially early career researchers—to present their work and engage in discussions with experts across the geoscience community.



Figure 3. The Academy introduces WCRP Academy at the ASEAN Pavilion at COP30.

1.3 Engaging with WCRP Core Projects and Lighthouse activities

- Support for **Global South Inclusion Task Team (GSITT)** activities: survey and regional workshops
 - The Academy continues to play an active role in the GSITT, with most of its Support Unit staff contributing in their own capacities to the development of the GSITT survey, ethics application, and dissemination through the Academy newsletter. The development of the survey involved brainstorming sessions, consultation meetings, and pilot-testing activities, all of which the Academy participated in.

- Side session on Global South Inclusion at **CMIP Community Workshop**
 - In partnership with the WCRP GSITT, MCR, FEoC, and YESS, the Academy co-organized a side event focused on Global South Inclusion in the modelling community during the CMIP Community Workshop. Key discussion points included: GS/GN inequalities, barriers to participation and leadership, ECRs and pathways to inclusion, and building equitable partnerships. Key actions include creating pathways for Global South Leadership in CMIP, increasing training and mentorship opportunities, improving access to CMIP data, and increasing GS representation in CMIP communities to strengthen regional relevance of models
- Session on Climate Literacy at **RfS/CORDEX** workshop in Africa and, and Stakeholder Engagement in Asia
 - Prior to the Academy Leadership Development Workshop, members of the Academy SSG Team organised a session on Climate Literacy in the RfS/CORDEX Workshop. Apart from discussing the definition and importance of climate literacy, particularly in the context of Africa, this activity also highlighted the importance of leadership development (in addition to technical training) in the field of climate science.
- Participating in the Pan-CLIVAR meeting and **CLIVAR** Symposium in Bali
 - In a presentation to Plenary, the Academy co-chairs presented the structure and work of the Academy including the online catalogue and a profile of how it is being used, the Future Leaders Programme and preliminary results from the surveys it has conducted. We also conducted a Mentimeter survey of workshop participants to gain their insights on what makes a good leader, and their personal training needs with respect to leadership. Further, we participated in the ECR session providing career advice and guidance.
- Coordinating with **MCR Early Career Working Group** in archiving training resources from past MCR-organized webinars in the Academy website
 - Recognising the success of the MCR Early Career Working Group in organising several webinars, the Academy has been coordinating to archive these resources on its online training catalogue. This would ensure that the learnings and insights from these past webinars can remain accessible and relevant, especially within the WCRP Community.
- Continuously promoting **WCRP-organized training events** on Academy social media and newsletter
 - As part of its efforts to consolidate WCRP-organised training events and activities via its [online training catalogue](#), the Academy has also been utilising its social media pages and newsletters to promote initiatives of other Core Projects and Lighthouse Activities. This extends the reach of these events, notably within the network of the Academy.
- **Featuring climate scientists:** In social media and newsletter releases, the Academy continues to feature WCRP scientists and their work in the field of climate science. This social media

content of the Academy has been gaining a substantial number of likes and shares on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram.

1.4 Publications

The Academy continues to produce academic publications to further contribute to the discourse and practice of capacity-building in the field of climate science. As such, the following publications have already been submitted and are currently under editorial review:

- Assessing the training needs of climate scientists: The role of the World Climate Research Programme Academy
The text is currently under review by PLOS Climate. It is expected to be published within the year.
- Accessibility and Inclusivity of Climate Science Education: Perspectives from WCRP Academy
This paper was presented at the Regional Climate Change Conference in Oct 2025, and a full draft of the manuscript will be submitted to the Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences.

The Academy also contributed to the publication of the first Global South Inclusion Task Team Report, particularly by providing Annex B of the document. This was an analysis that looked into the characteristics of WCRP-organised events, such as the location of in-person and hybrid events, Global North/Global South affiliation of webinar speakers, and other information.

1.5 Climate services

The Academy's [Online Training Catalogue](#) provides a robust repository of climate science training resources, allowing various stakeholders from diverse backgrounds to access excellent capacity-building opportunities in the field of climate science. This platform consolidates training opportunities provided by WCRP Core Projects and Lighthouse Activities, while simultaneously reaching out to external training providers and organizations to further expand the digital platform. Thus, since its initial launch in 2023 at the WCRP Open Sciences Conference, the Academy's Online Training Catalogue has become a vibrant platform that connects climate science training providers with a broad range of audiences and stakeholders.

In its effort to expand and improve its Online Training Catalogue, the Academy continuously conducts stocktakes and analyses that determine key characteristics of the curated platform. Among the 277 opportunities featured on the platform, around 70% and 55% tackle the themes of Physical Science Basis of Climate Change and Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability, respectively. There are efforts to increase training events on the Mitigation of Climate Change, together with contemporary and cross-cutting topics such as climate colonialism, science communication, and climate impacts. The platform also provides diverse types of training: webinars, conferences, and workshops are most commonly featured, although seasonal schools, short courses, and massive open online courses (MOOCs) are also available. The Academy, striving to capacitate climate actors from various backgrounds, offers opportunities to academics at various career levels (eg, there are opportunities for undergraduate students, as well as for senior

researchers), government representatives, civil society organizations and media, business groups, and even marginalized sectors.

Under the WCRP Future Leaders Programme, the Academy is also kicking off its **Climate Leadership Webinar Series** in 2026 featuring leaders within the WCRP Community and facilitating knowledge exchange on necessary leadership skills honed by real-world experiences across different regional contexts. The Academy is also trying to secure additional resources to develop **climate leadership training modules**, and is reaching out to WCRP Core Projects and Lighthouse Activities to coordinate regarding the potential pilot implementation of these modules in upcoming WCRP-organized events.

1.6 Partnerships beyond WCRP

The Academy has also been actively reaching out to various partners to exchange best practices in promoting climate literacy and climate education, and whenever possible collaborate on joint activities:

- International Universities Climate Alliance (IUCA)
- Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU)
- Asia-Pacific Network of Early Career Professionals for Global Change Research (APN-ECAP)
- Adaptation Research Alliance
- UK Met Office - Scalable Climate Services and Value Propositions: Transformational Training and User Support project
- Thailand Department of Climate Change and the Environment (CCE)
- Climatedmatch Academy

2. Future Plans and priorities

2.1 WCRP Future Leaders Programme

As the research training advisory and coordination arm of WCRP, the Academy is mandated to develop opportunities that will enhance capacity-building and growth within the field of climate science. As a direct response to this mandate, the Academy has developed its flagship WCRP Future Leaders Programme, which aims to nurture and empower the next generation of climate science leaders, particularly those in the Global South, through mentorship, and capacity and leadership development.

The Programme consists of three key components:

1. fostering a community of future climate leaders, which focuses on introducing mentorship and networking opportunities
2. expanding leadership development opportunities, which aim to curate and implement leadership modules for climate scientists
3. enhancing the Academy's visibility and impact, which strives to build strategic partnerships at a global level.



wcrp-academy.org/wcrp-future-leaders-programme/

The Future Leaders Programme is an ambitious and long-term initiative that aims to transform the field of climate science. Through its three components, it is a comprehensive initiative that capacitates young climate scientists to be inclusive leaders who can build an empowering climate science community, effective communicators who can connect with non-scientific stakeholders, and competent scientists who are equipped with the latest advancements in the field.

2.2 Planned publications

Based on the various events and discussions the Academy has organized in the past year, the following publications are currently being planned:

- **Climate leadership development:** based on discussions from Cape Town workshop
- **Global South Inclusion:** based on discussions from CMIP workshop side session (organized with GSITT, FeOC, YESS and MCR)
- **Next round of global stocktake in 2026:** with special focus on climate leadership training opportunities

2.3 Continuous fundraising efforts

The Academy is continuously looking for funding opportunities to support operation of the International Support Unit and implementation of the WCRP Future Leaders Programme.

The following proposals specifically focused on capacity-building have already been submitted, awaiting results:

- APN: USD 40k
- Spencer Foundation: USD 500k
- Philanthropic organizations/individuals

3. Suggestions, Issues or Challenges

The Academy sees several opportunities to further engage with the WCRP community, subject to broader discussion with the relevant groups and the JSC:

- **EMCR Task Team:** can be potentially absorbed by Academy, as many of our activities are overlapping
- **WCRP Fellowship:** can help explore/plan how to move forward with the Fellowship
- **My Climate Risk:** exploring integration of regional hubs into Academy network as part of sunsetting
- **Joint proposals** could be an excellent way to facilitate collaboration; integrating capacity-building components also strengthen proposals

4. Any other points or issues you wish to include

The Academy kindly proposes the following budget for its International Support Unit in 2027, duly considering the severe funding constraints faced by WCRP.

Total: CHF 41,700

- Employment of a full-time (1.0 FTE) Academy-SU Manager (CHF 18,500);
- Employment of a part-time (0.5 FTE) web designer (CHF 8,400);
- Employment of a part-time (0.5 FTE) science communication officer (CHF 6,400);
- Employment of a part-time (0.5 FTE) international liaison officer (CHF 8,400)

With this budget, MO's contributions will be as follows:

- Supplementary salary for part-time science communication officer (CHF 2k): to achieve the same level of salary she is receiving now (CHF 8.4k)
- Funding for office space (CHF 8.2k)
- Funding for a part-time assistant science communication officer: to assist particularly with keeping our online catalogue up to date with diverse training opportunities (this is currently valued at around CHF6k)

As discussed above, the Academy is also currently pursuing various funding opportunities particularly to support the implementation of the proposed WCRP Future Leaders Programme.

With this, the continued funding support of WCRP for the Academy and its Support Unit in 2027 will also give us more time to secure additional funding from external sources, so that hopefully we can become self-supporting in the near-future.