

The Joint Planning Staff and the WCRP offices Telecon 22 April 2020

Attendants

CliC: Gwen Hamon
SPARC: Mareike Kenntner & Hans Volkert
CORDEX: Irene Lake & Linda Nilsson
CLIVAR: Jose Santos & Jing Li
JPS: Mike Sparrow & Narelle van der Wel

S2S: Seungon Hwang & Yukyung Hyun
CORA: Beatriz Balino (Chair), Anke Schlüsen-Rico & Seung Jae Mum
YESS: Valentina Rabanal

Apologies

Peter van Oevelen, GEWEX; Michel Rixen, JPS

Minutes

CORA chaired the meeting. The guests were welcomed and asked to present themselves.

Valentina Rabanal is officer of the Young Earth System Scientists (YESS) community. She is an atmospheric sciences student at the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina and her office is located at the National Weather Service, international relations office.

Seung Jae Mum is engaged as intern at GERICS to assist CORA until the end of August. He is originally from South Korea, has a BSc in Environmental engineering and is now engaged in a MSc program to analyse the global transport of persistent organic pollutants due to climate change.

There were no comments or additions to the agenda.

1. Latest updates

SPARC

- SPARC has published in-depth reports of special activities in the past. The one coming up is No.10 in the series, and is on the topic of Reanalysis intercomparison. The report was already submitted in November 2019, and is currently in review. The review phase is extended, due to the Corona situation making communication between the chapter authors/-contributors difficult.
- Otherwise, the IPO and SPARC community are adapting to the new situation after massive cancellation of meetings and people working from home. The SPARC office is surveying the community to share experiences and best practices regarding the use of digital platforms in the organisation of events.
- SPARC has published a call for expression if interest to host the next SPARC General Assembly, planned for 2022. We are explicitly asking for innovative ideas (de-localised meeting formats, green concepts, etc)

CliC

- The IPO published CliC's annual report for 2019: <http://www.climate-cryosphere.org/news/clic-news/1619-2019-clic-annualreport>
- CliC is preparing for JSC-41: reporting and presentation.
- All Spring meetings are postponed to Fall 2020 or 2021. Some will be held online, some in person. Only a couple of meetings have confirmed dates and places for now.
- Except for meetings, CliC Activities are going forward with their plans.

CLIVAR

- Managed to hold the SSC meeting in San Diego in February. Now most meetings are either carried out on-line or postponed to the second half of 2020, with a final decision to be taken depending on how the global crisis due to COID-2192 develops. Next week they will decide

about the fate of the planned summer school in Qingdao (July) and in the next few weeks on the one schedule in Italy (August).

- Jose is still working from Ecuador; tentative return to China sometime in the end of June.

S2S

- Most S2S workshops, summer colloquium, seminars, etc have been cancelled.
- The co-chairs submitted session proposal to AGU in winter.
- New member of the S2S steering group: Zewdu T. Segele from Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Climate Prediction and Applicants Center (ICPAC) in Nairobi
- Machine learning wiki was open in S2S website. Information has been collected from the several institutes. -Check: <http://s2sprediction.net/>
- S2S newsletter of March edition has been released. Check <http://s2sprediction.net/static/newsletter>

CORDEX

- Postponed several meetings and activities, initially until the fall. In the fall they will then discuss how to organise meetings back-to-back due to the accumulation of events for next year.
- Also checking with the community for best practices regarding digital platforms, notably for the organisation of workshops. CORDEX will be working with CORA on this.
- Other activities: preparing the reporting and presentation for the JSC-41 meeting.
- Capacity building: Proposed to include practice in preparing grant proposals as a topic in CORDEX workshops

JPS

- JSC-41: First draft of the agenda is completed and will be distributed shortly. The meeting will last only 3 days (18-20 May), with 3-hour sessions per day. The on-line meeting will probably be held with “GoToWebinar” –
Update (Narelle 27 Apr): *Now changed to GoToMeeting as GoToWebinar was too complicated for our needs and GoToMeeting can now have 150 attendees*

CORA

- The office has been working intensively to put together a WCRP regional activities database. The db will be on-line, map-based and searchable by region/continent, science activity, science topics, and by partner organisations. When full populated, it will contain more than 200 records of global and regional activities, all information collected from the web. Expected finished by end of April and then tested thoroughly previous to its launch in May. The JPS and the WCRP offices are asked to assist in the testing, both for its contents and for functionality. Hopefully we will be demo at the JSC-41. The DB link from the WCRP webpage > «regional climates» and will be accessible to everybody.

2. Communication platforms

A number of platforms are in use, depending on the purposes, e.g.

- For internal communication/ team work: Teams, Slack, Microsoft 365, Alfresco, Trello, Adobe Connect,
- For sharing information: Google Drive, DropBox, One Drive, ...
- For on-line meetings: Zoom, GoToMeeting, GoToWebinar, Trello, BlueJeans...
- Narelle and Helen (co-chair JSC) are having informal chats on how to use digital platforms for a more effective way of working, for instance, by adopting Microsoft 365 for the whole WCRP community

A matter of consideration is that the access and performance of these platforms vary according to regions (Africa, South America, China...). Lastly, the present extensive use of digital platforms has come to be in light of WCRP’s concern about C-footprint. SPARC informs that they have a very active group in that topic (C-footprint) and so IPO offered to share this information with the rest.

In short: Even though there won’t be the “one platform that fits all”, and probably many of the existing platforms will change in the near future, the group will find it useful to share experiences and best practices from our communities.

Actions:

- *The JPS and WCRP offices to contribute with experiences and best practices on the use of digital platforms in the organization of events, sharing of documents and data, etc.*
- *CORA to create a document in Google Drive for this purpose. A discussion note will be tabled at the next Telecon.*

3. Monitoring WCRP success

Participants informed about some of the metrics/Key Performance Indicators (KPI) being used for the monitoring of activities: homepage statistics, feedbacks from users, gathering of science articles as special issues in journals, number of downloads of datasets/predictions from WCRP databases, number of CMIP citations, engagement in social media, number of webinars, etc. JPS informs that WMO has used KPIs in the past and are introducing novel ones, such as record of the number of MET agencies producing decadal forecasts from simulations originating from the work of the Grand Challenge Near-Term Climate Prediction.

Major problem is that the WCRP activities are so diverse and dispersed that it will be difficult to gather around few, simple metrics which in turn are inter-comparable. For instance, how to monitor the success of capacity building activities? A way to overcome this problem would be to tailor metrics to the target audience, e.g. different audiences will require different metrics. It was emphasised that whatever metric is chosen it should be accountable and not too time consuming to produce.

JPS informs that there will be a community discussion around this topic in connection to the WCRP Implementation Plan, with background on the new MoU between WCRP and their sponsors (WMO, UNESCO IOC and ICS) which reads: "Monitoring of the performance of WCRP according to agreed metrics". Thus, the WCRP offices will be asked to contribute to this discussion.

Next telecon

The next telecon will be held at the end of May, after the JSC-41. CLIVAR will chair the next telecon and will prepare the agenda

Actions:

- *CORA prepares the doodle to settle the date and time*
- *ClIC prepares the invitation GoToMeeting*

