



ICSU

International Council for Science

e-zine N° 8 – December 2007

## News

### **Climate change irreversible? UN Chief urges Bali breakthrough after dire IPCC report**

Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General, says "Today the world's scientists have spoken clearly and with one voice. In Bali I expect the world's policymakers to do the same." [BBC](#); [synthesis](#).

### **Ministers address observational needs for Earth system research**

At the GEO IV Ministerial Summit, Cape Town, 26-30 Nov., the seamless prediction paper of WCRP-WWRP was showcased for Global Earth Observation System of Systems. [GEO extracts](#).

### **Climate change awareness raising wins 2007 Nobel Peace Prize**

The choice of honorees, the IPCC and former US vice president Al Gore, symbolizes the world's growing recognition of the destabilizing effect of failing to tackle climate change. [More](#).

### **Critical gaps in climate change research & observations identified: Sydney workshop**

WCRP, IGBP & GCOS hosted 66 key IPCC science & policy experts in Sydney, 4-6 Oct., to identify critical gaps in climate change science & the use of information for adaptation. [EOS](#).

### **Sea-level rise threatens vulnerable coastal city populations**

Rising sea levels will pose a significant threat to ~1.2 billion people living in mega-cities along the coasts worldwide ([article](#)). See also World Bank [report](#) on impacts on developing nations.

### **Society benefits from a revolution in Earth system prediction**

Scientists within WCRP, IGBP & the World Weather Research Programme have proposed to policy makers and academies the need to establish an Earth-System Prediction Project. [PDF](#).

### **La Niña well established in eastern equatorial Pacific**

Cooler than normal sea temperatures north of Australia are associated with a positive phase of the Indian Ocean Dipole causing unusual climate patterns over parts of Africa & Australia. [Web](#).

### **Carbon sinks slowdown compounding rapid growth in anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**

While anthropogenic emissions due to increased economic growth are on the rise, the natural removal of greenhouse gases is declining, says an ESSP-GCP article published in PNAS. [Article](#).

### **Capacity building for climate change adaptation for developing nations: WCRP-ICTP**

At the WCRP-ICTP seminar held in Trieste, 26-30 Nov., professionals from developing nations learnt to interpret & utilize the wealth of CMIP3 data created for IPCC AR4. Read [PDF](#); [article](#).

### **World ocean observing success: Argo array achieves initial target**

Seven years after its initiation, the international ocean observing array Argo hit its initial target of operating 3,000 robotic floats in ice-free areas of the deep ocean around the world. [Article](#).

### **"Agencies have climate data-sharing policies but could do better!"**

The US Government Accountability Office published a report on the importance of sharing climate data saying much of the data is in hands of individual researchers. Download [report](#).

### **Climate extreme? Ask the world weather archive for verifying & certifying extremes**

Enquiries for consideration whether a weather event is a world/regional record can now be sent to the World Meteorological Organization's Rapporteur for Climate Extremes. [More](#).

### **Buying carbon offsets reflects responsibility for carbon-climate consequences**

A new report published by the ESSP-Global Carbon Project concludes carbon offsets are most beneficial if preceded by the implementation of measures to reduce or avoid emissions. [Report](#).

### **Young Chilean scientist promotes social approach to climate change after ESSP OSC**

Dr Aldunce sees the importance of a social approach to global environmental change. [News](#).

### **First Earth System Science Partnership Scientific Council held 23-25 October, Paris**

Issues addressed included the current ESSP review, vision and strategic planning, and interactions with UN assessments and conventions as well as a new biofuels activity. [Web](#).

### **Climate change and desertification: research priorities and communication needs**

The WCRP co-sponsored Climate Change and Desertification workshop in Wengen, Switzerland, Sept. 2007, prioritised better integrated models & improved cooperation with UNCCD. [Report](#).

### **Advances in planning for the WCRP-WWRP Year of Tropical Convection (YOTC)**

The YOTC Science and Implementation Plan for improved numerical weather forecasts and global climate predictions was discussed & refined 13-14 Nov. in Arlington, Virginia. [Web](#).

### **New era in climate change research: WCRP CMIP3 multi-model dataset**

Sharing is proving very successful. CMIP3's open access is changing the way researchers and students analyze and interpret climate change predictions. Read [article](#) published in BAMS.

### **Climate prediction applications opportunities: new WCRP/CLIVAR-UCAR programme**

Postdocs needed to transfer advances in climate science into decision tools. Apply by [15 Dec.](#)!

### **Mass extinctions and biodiversity change likely to occur with global warming**

Dr Mayhew and colleagues found evidence in fossil records that global biodiversity is related to temperature and predict mass extinctions due to anthropogenic climate warming. Read [article](#).

### **Better collaboration for the sake of the Asian cryosphere, CliC Symposium, Lanzhou**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia CliC Symposium, 22-26 Oct., encourages better research collaboration. [Statement](#).

### **World-first research facility dedicated to climate change adaptation**

The Australian government has created the world's first national climate change adaptation research facility with funding of over \$50 million to focus on health, water, biodiversity. [More](#).

### **WMO 2007 Antarctic Ozone Bulletin, biweekly updates available online**

At two week intervals, WMO issues an Antarctic Ozone Bulletin with WCRP/SPARC assessment reports providing the scientific bases. [www.wmo.int/pages/prog/arep/gawozobull07\\_en.html](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/arep/gawozobull07_en.html).

### **International Council for Science (ICSU) anniversary report**

In its 2006 Annual Report, ICSU included a historical review of its past 75 years. [Report](#).

### **WCRP review to be chaired by Dr James Baker is starting in January 2008**

Sponsors, ICSU, IOC, WMO & the International Group of Funding Agencies, begin review. [Web](#).

### **China sponsors CLIVAR workshop on western tropical Pacific**

The Chinese Academy of Science and the National Natural Science Foundation supported the Hatchery for ENSO and Global Teleconnections [Workshop](#) held in Guanzhou, 26-28 November.

### **Welcome to the new GEWEX project office's director Dr van Oevelen**

Peter van Oevelen, European GEWEX Coordinator and researcher at the ESA Science and Technology Centre in The Netherlands, will be replacing Rick Lawford as of January 2008. [PDF](#).

### **Latest news from WCRP activities**

Read latest news from CLIVAR ([No. 43](#)) and the Working Group on Surface Fluxes ([No. 4](#)).