



New Faces

Welcome to the new Chairman of the Joint Scientific Committee of the WCRP

In March, the Joint Scientific Committee (JSC) of WCRP elected Dr. John Church as their new Chair, replacing Dr. Peter Lemke. Dr. Church is lead scientist of the Sea Level Rise Programme at the Antarctic CRC and CSIRO Marine Research Centre in Australia and lead author on sea level rise changes for IPCC's Third and Fourth Assessment Reports, [see Dr. Church's research](#).

News

WCRP research at the UNFCCC SBSTA meeting 18-24 May 2006

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC's) Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) has initiated a review of research needs for the climate change convention. WCRP, IGBP & IHDP contributed to this by supplying research results and proposals for future directions. A [Side Event](#) featuring WCRP speakers, which occurred on Friday 19 May, can be viewed as [web casts](#). Slide sets can also be downloaded.

Greening: WCRP in the "champions" league with FIFA

A green work policy has long been an important goal for WCRP. As well as using teleconferencing to link climate researchers around the world, the Joint Planning Staff are offsetting CO₂ emissions for WCRP travel with renewable energy and energy-efficiency projects. Check [WCRP news site](#) for updates and details. Tell us about other "green" activities in WCRP!

Milestone for meteorology and climate research: First cloud radar in space, April 2006

28 April 2006 saw the dual launch of the CloudSat and CALIPSO satellites. These new satellites will plug a significant scientific gap in our ability to observe the atmosphere and monitor climate evolution, www.wmo.ch/web/wcrp/documents/PressRelease_WCRP042006.pdf.

Congratulations: 75 years of the International Council for Science

Founded in 1931 and devoted to international and universal science, ICSU is among the oldest of non-governmental organizations. We wish our oldest sponsor happy birthday, www.icsu.org/index.php.

Understanding the vulnerability of West African societies to climate variability and change

The first special observation period of the African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis (AMMA) study was successfully conducted during the dry West African season (Nov 2005 - Jan 2006). This survey used space, airborne and ground observations to study the export of dust from arid areas. The next phase is timed to match the onset of the Monsoon in June, www.amma-international.org.

Impact of Antarctic polar vortex on ozone formation

The French campaign Stratéole-Vorcore finished its first experimental phase in October 2005 in McMurdo, Antarctica. The study, aimed at understanding the dynamics of the polar vortex and its impact on ozone formation, has collected atmospheric data from balloon trajectories, [first results](#).

What is the status of global climate? WMO's annual statement for 2005

The WMO's World Climate Programme's Commission for Climatology assessed 2005 as a year of records in which damage and casualties caused by extreme weather and climate events were exceptionally high, www.wmo.int/meteoworld/en/recentlyissued.htm.

New compendium available on stratospheric aerosols

SPARC (Stratospheric Processes And their Role in Climate) has completed a fundamental assessment report on the properties of stratospheric aerosols and their precursors, concentration trends, distribution and transport paths, www.atmosp.physics.utoronto.ca/SPARC/ASAP%20V3c1.pdf.

Feature articles on WCRP's research: www.wmo.ch/web/wcrp/news.htm

Recent WCRP research highlights include: Smog over China ([article](#)); Floods in the Antarctic secret lake system ([article](#)); The globe in night-time fever ([article](#)); Cyclones in the Mediterranean ([article](#)); Pan-Arctic tele-connections: after widespread snowfall in Eurasia, the rivers swell in Canada ([article](#)); Climatic trends in the atmosphere ([article](#)); Global sea level rise increase during the 20th century ([article](#)); Floods in South America: more frequent and more severe ([article](#)); The Sun delays ozone recovery ([article](#)); Predicting the predictability of climate ([article](#)).

Events

Reducing uncertainty for policy on sea level rise: WCRP workshop in Paris, June 2006

Environmental refugees have recently been forced to evacuate from inundated Pacific islands in Kiribati and Tuvalu. Despite the urgent policy needs, the forthcoming IPCC Fourth Assessment Report is unlikely to draw firm conclusions about the speed of future rise. To reduce these uncertainties, WCRP is initiating an intense research effort at a workshop in Paris, France, 6-9 June 2006, <http://copes.ipsl.jussieu.fr/Workshops/SeaLevel/> Other WCRP meetings: www.wmo.ch/web/wcrp/meetings.htm.

Exploring uncertainties and risks: Climate Change Conference in Finland, July 2006

Participants from diverse disciplines in the private and public sectors will discuss three premises: (i) the climate system is changing, (ii) societies are becoming increasingly dependent on climate variability and (iii) losses associated with climatic hazards are rising, at the WMO co-sponsored Climate Change Conference: Living with Climate Variability and Change, which will take place 17-21 July 2006 in Espoo, Finland, www.livingwithclimate.fi/en/index.html.

Coupled climate model appraisal: Hawaii to San Francisco

WCRP co-ordinates model intercomparisons. In 2005, US CLIVAR (CLimate VARiability and predictability) and WCRP's Working Group on Coupled Models (WGCM) initiated the first worldwide analyses of climate model simulations for IPCC's 4th Assessment Report. Already over 200 papers have been published from this effort hosted at the [Program for Climate Model Diagnosis and Intercomparison \(PCMDI\)](#) (see *EOS* Vol 87(19)). A February 2007 workshop will take this effort further.

Cities under carbon stress: the Global Carbon Project in Mexico City, September 2006

Natural and social scientists discuss the role of urban communities in the trade-off between urbanisation and increase in carbon emissions at "Carbon Management at Urban and Regional Levels"; 4-8 Sept 2006, Mexico City, www.wmo.ch/web/wcrp/documents/GCP_event_announcement.pdf.

Earth system science: Young Scientists' and ESSP Conferences in Beijing, November 2006

The Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) second Open Science Conference on Global Environmental Change: Regional Challenges in Beijing, China, 9-12 November 2006 follows the Second International Young Scientists' Global Change Conference, www.start.org/YSC/YSC2006.html. Register for the global environmental change challenge at www.essp.org/essp/ESSP2006/.

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