

WCRP Capacity Development Principles

WCRP Joint Steering Committee, April 2016

Background:

Prior to the 36th Joint Scientific Committee (JSC) meeting (2015), all International Project Offices (IPOs) of WCRP and the Joint Planning Staff (JPS) discussed the general principles of a WCRP education and capacity development strategy. The preliminary conclusions were documented online on the WCRP web site (<http://wcrp-climate.org/unifying-themes/unifying-themes-capacity-development>), containing:

- A Description of the types of existing/on-going activities within the WCRP, and gaps;
- Preliminary analyses on the community's needs and priorities;
- Consideration of the requirements, as well as possible partnerships, ideas for resource mobilization, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

This paper proposes a set of general principles for WCRP Capacity Development that will provide the basis for respective strategies and their implementation across the WCRP projects and working groups. Upon the agreement and regular review by the JSC, these principles would also be the baseline for further consideration of the directions for WCRP Capacity Development (following the above-mentioned paper) to help with the specific implementation at various programmatic levels.

Proposed Principles for WCRP Capacity Development:

With no priority implied by the order of these principles:

- i. The primary objective of WCRP Capacity Development is to empower long-term achievements in climate research. WCRP shall promote data and knowledge sharing at all stages of Capacity Development activities.
- ii. In the same context, WCRP promotes current and future leadership in climate research. WCRP Capacity Development shall make particular efforts to support and engage early career researchers, encouraging cross-disciplinary exchange in Earth system science.
- iii. WCRP encourages a bottom-up approach, and stimulates the initiatives for climate research and applications made by the global research community.
- iv. WCRP Capacity Development aims to fill gaps and coordinate efforts across the programme, avoiding overlapping at all levels. It is highly desirable that efforts for global and regional activities are coordinated in a harmony so the complementary benefits are clearly demonstrated for the areas covered by WCRP activities.
- v. At the regional level, WCRP's approach shall be on the basis of science topics and motivations that correspond to the specific requirements of regions, rather than geographical distribution. WCRP – through the general guidance of the JSC and coordination of the WCRP Regional Advisory Council (WRAC) – is to encourage activities promoting an array of opportunities that are useful for specific regional requirements to develop capacity for climate research.
- vi. WCRP Capacity Development activities shall include means of monitoring, evaluation, and assessment of progress as well as evolving requirements of the respective research community.
- vii. WCRP Capacity Development activities should correspond to research requirements for improved climate services, and strive for relevance, sustainability, efficiency, and focus.

- viii. Specific activities to improve research capacity shall be implemented by the respective Core Projects, Working Groups and other WCRP panels, within or together with their respective scientific work-plans.
- ix. WCRP Capacity Development activities shall endeavour to utilize existing methods, courses, tools, and other capacity development aids; particularly those of the WMO, IOC, and ICSU. WCRP should provide scientific guidance to the related research and development programmes of those co-sponsors, as the trusted research information source.
- x. The JSC shall provide general guidance in scientific priority in the Capacity Development activities. The JPS and IPOs of WCRP Core Projects shall play a key role in coordinating relevant activities in a harmonized manner avoiding duplication.

Points for JSC decisions:

JSC is invited to review and endorse the Capacity Development Principles, and consider including the agreed principles in the revision of the WCRP Strategy, instead of developing a separate Capacity Development strategy or implementation plan in parallel. It is also proposed that JSC will regularly review the principles in order to reflect the contemporary requirements and priorities.

Specific activities to develop climate research capacity are implemented by the various groups of WCRP (Core Projects, Working Groups, Grand Challenges, and other panels, supported by the JPS and IPOs) under the guidance of scientific advisory groups for respective topics. Taking this into account, JSC should encourage Core Projects to develop respective CD strategies and/or implementation plans in accordance with the agreed principles (Note: SPARC published its Capacity Development Strategy in 2015, in line with the proposed principles).

JSC should also advise all WCRP projects, groups, and panels to take into account the agreed principles, in prioritizing the use of WCRP resources as well as in their efforts for resource mobilization.
