The WCRP Academy founding principles and proposed working groups.   **1 December 2020**

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Founding Principles

What is the WCRP Academy and why is it needed?
- Now, more than ever, the world needs climate experts. Climate expertise is particularly needed in countries most vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change.
- Although there is a large amount of excellent climate science training available, coordination of access to this training would benefit those looking for it.
- Provision of climate science training could be made more efficient and sustainable by better connecting providers and consumers of training.
- Climate science is an applied science that integrates disciplinary knowledge from many fields. No one institution can provide the complete training that modern climate scientists require.
- Climate training could be made more useful if designed with the impact of climate variability and change on society in mind.
- Barriers to access to training are primarily geographical and financial not a lack of prior learning or desire for training. The WCRP Academy seeks particularly to provide training opportunities for early career scientists in low and middle income countries.
- Delivery of climate science training needs to be funded through a combination of governmental, institutional and philanthropic grants and fees paid by consumers of training, when possible.
- Training at the scale and quality required for the next generation of climate scientists will require delivery both online and in-person.
- The WCRP Academy will be the hub which connects training providers and consumers. A 'Spotify' or 'Amazon Marketplace' for climate science training.
- Inclusion of training within the WCRP Academy hub implies that the training is high quality. As the Academy develops, it will need to build a light-touch mechanism of quality assurance.
- The WCRP Academy will build and maintain an evidence base of what climate science training is required, where and by whom. This evidence base will enable training providers to develop courses that meet market needs.

What the WCRP Academy is not.
- The WCRP Academy does not have a climate science outreach function. Climate science outreach is a vital part of making the best use of our science, but there are many organisations which do this job very well.
- The WCRP Academy is not a training provider.
- The WCRP Academy does not provide a mechanism for those accessing training to attain a qualification or certificate.

What does the WCRP Academy need to deliver this vision?
1. A modern, well developed platform that allows researchers to learn about and access training opportunities.
2. A mechanism to regularly survey climate science training needs and communicate this information to training providers.
3. A funded, permanent Academy team that maintains and develops the platform, runs the surveying mechanism and maintains communications with potential students and training providers.

WCRP Academy working groups

Co-chairs: Andrew Charlton-Perez & Angela Maharaj
The work of the Academy is drawn across three interacting working groups. The co-chairs will meet regularly outside of the working groups for:

- Coordination with other LHAs and other partners
- Developing partnerships with WMO etc.
- Reporting to WCRP-JSC
- Disseminates and promotes the stock-take survey through WCRP core projects, LHAs, regional hubs, WMO-member states.

The co-chairs will also attend working groups where necessary.

Stock-take group
[Antonietta Capotondi, Chris Lennard, Amy Lovecraft, Irene Lake]
1. Come up with working definitions of 'climate science', 'climate scientist' and 'training.'
2. Design a stock-take survey that assesses what training is needed and what is already provided.
3. Collects and analyses survey data.
4. Writes a short report on the results of the survey, could be published either by WCRP or through wide circulation journal (BAMS, EOS etc.).
5. Develops and maintains an ongoing plan for update training needs assessment.

Identity and website group
[Pablo Borges de Amorim, Feba Francis, Thando Ndarana, Enrique Sánchez Sánchez]
[Note: This group will not do the technical work of developing the website, brand etc. for which we will employ web developers and designers. The working group provides the input, direction and approval for this process]
1. Writes a short document with the value proposition of the Academy to training provides, consumers and the WCRP.
2. Refines the WCRP Academy vision and brand including consideration of the best name for the activity.
3. Guides development of an initial website aimed at communication of the vision to potential providers, consumers and funders.
4. Guides development of web portal.
5. Develops metrics for use and function of portal.

Funding group
[Ayman Batisha, Michael Bosilovich, Peter van Oevelen]
1. Drafts a short, non-profit business plan for the Academy.
2. Draws up a list of potential funders and means to access funding.
3. Develops an outline funding bid that can be repurposed and modified for each funding scheme. Outline should include key elements common to all funding bids [Motivation, Resources required, Outcome measures].
4. Works with WCRP or IPO to develop financial mechanisms for winning and spending financial resource.
5. Submits funding bids.