Volume 3, Issue 4 August 2011

# Climate Information for Public Health Action Summer Institute

## News From the Ground

This newsletter provides updates on the latest developments within the CIPHA network, including the activities of alumni and facilitators, meeting reports, news from the health and climate community and opportunities for collaboration




# Editorial

This CIPHA newsletter – now in its 12th Edition! is designed to support an emerging global network of professionals engaged in the management of climate related risks to human health. Many of the readers are alumni from the series of Summer Institutes 'Climate Information for Public Health' that have been held by the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), in partnership with the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) and the Mailman School of Public Health (MSPH) at Columbia University, New York.

Building on the response of our 2008 - 2010 alumni, and a great demand from the climate and health community we ran the fourth Summer Institute on Climate Information for Public Health last May. It was a very exciting course – full of energy and new ideas – see the comments below.

Each year we have selected participants to attend the Summer Institute from organizations that have made clear their own commitment to building capacity in climate and health – and this has meant that new initiatives, drawing on the experience of the Summer Institute have been initiated by some of our alumni. Now, as we start to prepare for our 5th Summer Institute we solicit your ideas as to how this initiative might evolve from a New York based activity to a truly global effort.

Please send your thoughts to Gilma and Madeleine (mantilla@iri.columbia.edu; mthomson@iri.columbia.edu) before the 15th October. Lets get the discussion going!

## In This Issue

2 Comments
3 Updates
4 Upcoming Courses
5 Upcoming Events
6 Publications
8 Related Links
8 Contact Information
8 Internet Citation

# SI 2011 Comments

*"One of the first things we were told at the course by Wendy Thomas (SI2008 alumna) was that it would be a 'life-changing experience', and it definitely was."*

*"What I will remember most from the course is not necessarily all of the theory and practical applications we learned, but it is the people I met, the amazing connections I made with inspirational researchers, and the fun we had. Learning is not so hard in a fun environment, and this was the most fun that I have ever had learning. I couldn't help but notice the sheer enjoyment of all participants and facilitators as we searched for answers to complicated questions, and were so interested in seeking new knowledge. It is an amazing feeling being surrounded by people with the same goals, interests, and enthusiasm for climate and health research – all "walking in the same direction across a bridge". This makes me excited for my future, and I feel so very lucky to have been – and continue to be – part of such a truly wonderful network of people. "*

*"There is clear strength in the diversity of the group. What I have realized is we don't all need to be experts at the same thing - modelers, economists, communicators, public health specialists, meteorologists - but between us there is strength in moving forward along this path of increasing the collaboration between health and climate communities*

*"I had a lot of ideas before but I didn't know what to do with them - I now feel I have the tools to do research, new students I can teach and engage other professors. I have experience building capacity and can share this with others."*

*"I think I made peace with researchers. I wish that most researchers were like people here who think more than papers. The dilemma now is I need to go back and talk to the researchers at home thinking in a new way."*

# Updates

## Alumni

**SI11 Alumni Anna Stewart and SI09 Cristina Recalde** presented current research on climate and mosquito-borne diseases in Ecuador last June at two national meetings that brought the climate and health communities together with decision makers. Participants discussed the current state of knowledge in the region, ongoing research to develop Early Warning Systems, innovative approaches to climate change adaptation, policy levers, and knowledge gaps and challenges. Participants expressed a sense of urgency, emphasizing that actions need to be taken now to reduce current and future health risks.

**SI10 Alumna Stephanie Moore** just published her article entitled **"**Past trends and future scenarios for environmental conditions favoring the accumulation of paralytic shellfish toxins in Puget Sound shellfish." Available online at**:**

http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1568988311000369

## Facilitators

**SI10-11 Facilitator Wayne Elliot**, formerly Head of Health Forecasting at the UK Met Office is transferring to Switzerland in September to work at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). He is appointed as the International Relations Manager of Resource Mobilzation Team.

His role is to assist in identifying needs at regional and national level and then to engage with potential development partners to establish agreements and partnerships for joint regional and national projects. It will be important to gain a comprehensive understanding of the needs and operations of funding agencies and development partners and Wayne is keen to continue working alongside IRI to deliver this in the health sector.

**SI09-11 Facilitator Remi Cousin** with IRI Lisa Goddard and Arthur Green has developed a new map room that looks at XXth century observed time series of precipitation and temperature and decomposes those time series into 3 components qualified as Trend, Decadal and Interannual. It displays the patterns and variance of said decomposed signals in an attempt to illustrate the importance of the different time scales in climate variability. More detailed explanations are provided online at http://iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/maproom/.Global/.Time_Scales/

**SI 08-11 Facilitator Mark Becker** from CIESIN, Columbia University, was part of the team that developed The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC). It is a unique source of interdisciplinary data and related information and services on the human dimensions of global environmental change. To help users more effectively find, access, and use these resources, SEDAC has redesigned its website with enhanced search tools, interactive mapping tools, a map gallery, topical views of SEDAC content, and examples of uses of SEDAC data in research, applications, and education. The new site builds on the latest Internet technologies, including a content management system, Flickr, open source Web mapping services, and social networking tools. During the user testing period, users are encouraged to provide feedback on the site's organization and ease of use and suggestions about new features and content. Comments may be submitted anonymously through a tool available on the lower right corner of each Web page.

Please visit the new SEDAC website: http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu

**SI08-11 Facilitators Madeleine Thomson and Gilma Mantilla** from IRI, have been providing since last June are providing technical support to the Red Cross/ Red Crescent Climate Centre (http://www.climatecentre.org) on how to integrate climate variability and climate change into the International federation of the Red Cross Red Crescent (IFRC) health programming, guidance, tools and policies, including further development of an IFRC Climate and Health paper. They are also supporting the "*Health Risk Management in a Changing Climate*" project, which is being implemented in four countries (Tanzania, Kenya, Vietnam and Indonesia) with the local implementation being carried out by National Red Cross societies and managed by IFRC Zone and country offices. Read More Here: http://www.climatecentre.org/downloads/File/programs/Rockefeller short project description for website.pdf(146KB PDF)

**SI08-11 Facilitator Gilma Mantilla and SI10 Alumn Ramesh Dhimac** were part of the team who got an award last July from the Earth Institute Cross Cut Initiative to develop a project on "Impact of climate variability and urbanization on water storage practices and vector-borne disease incidence: Developing an understanding for risk prediction and response using Delhi, India as context".

This pilot study focuses on creating new knowledge of the links between climate and non-climate drivers, specifically urbanization and water storage which influence human exposure pathways for disease transmission. It will provide the motivation for a future larger study across several cities aimed at determining how the climate and non-climate mechanisms driving vector proliferation and vector-borne disease transmission vary across India.

# Upcoming Courses

**First Training Course on Climate and Health in the Mercosur Region.** Montevideo, Uruguay. November 7-18, 2011

The International Research Institute for Climate and Society, the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research , the Intergovernmental Commission for Environmental Health and Labor and the Pan American Health Organization rganize the first course on "*Climate and Health from the Mercosur Region*."

This two-week course is designed to increase awareness, understanding, and the ability to manage climate-related impacts on health and increase local and regional capacity on the use of climate information in health in Mercosur member-countries.

More information available online at:

http://www.iai.int/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=121&Itemid=142

**Summer School on Global Climate Modeling.** Sao Jose Dos Campos. Brazil. October 3- 14, 2011

The São Paulo School on Global Climate Modeling (SPSGCM) is aimed at discussing the leading edge knowledge on earth sciences, with its primary focus on land-ocean connections.

The proposed School will bring some of the most prominent scholars on climate issues, to lecture and challenge up to 40 students from Brazil, other South American countries, South Africa, and India on the frontier of knowledge about climate dynamics and challenges on global climate modeling.

More information available online at**:** http://www.ccst.inpe.br/SPSGCM/index.html

**Food Production, Public Health and the Environment.** John Hopkins Blomberg School of Public Health. OpenCourseWare ( online**)**

This course provides an understanding of the complex and challenging public health issue of food security in a world where one billion people are under-nourished while another billion are overweight. It also explores the connections among diet, the current food and food animal production systems, the environment and public health, while considering factors such as economics,

population and equity. Case studies are used to examine these complex relationships and as well as alternative approaches to achieving both local and global food security and the important role public health can play. Guest lecturers include experts from a variety of disciplines and experiences

More information available online at: http://ocw.jhsph.edu/courses/nutritionalhealthfoodproductionandenvironment/index.cfm

**Turn Your Data into Insights & Forecasts with Statistical Thinking.** Bath.,UK October 19 -21, 2011

This 3-day course is intended for anyone in the public or private sector who needs to analyze and interpret the results of surveys and trials and/or data collected over time periods, identify significant impacts, changes and trends in their data and produce forecasts of the future.

The end result of such analyses is to turn your data into actionable insights and forecasts that enables data-driven decisions to be made. For more details on this course, please follow this link http://www.marriott-stats.com/Course+11

# Upcoming Events

**First Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference (CCDA-I).** Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. October 17-19, 2011

The Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev in Africa) partners including the United Nations Economic Commission (UNECA) through its African Climate Policy Center (ACPC), African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) and partners are organizing the first three day Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-I) conference at the UNECA Conference Hall in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The overall objective of the conference is to establish a forum for dialogue, enhance awareness raising, mobilize effective commitment and actions through bringing together policy makers, academicians and practicing stakeholders with the aim of effectively mainstreaming climate change concerns into development policies, strategies, programmes and practices in Africa

More information available online at: http://www.uneca.org/acpc

**Second Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum.** Bangkok, Thailand. 27 - 28 October 2011.

Mainstreaming climate change into development with focused policies, strategies and plans is identified as a priority in Asia and the Pacific. The Asia Pacific Adaptation Forum 2011 will stimulate knowledge sharing on " Mainstreaming Adaptation into Development: Adaptation in Action " and will be organized around, linking knowledge to adaptation actions; the governance of adaptation decision-making and insights from practices – learning from experiences on the ground.

Other details regarding registration, special features and logistics are available in the Adaptation Forum 2011 website:
http://www.asiapacificadapt.net/adaptationforum2011

# Publications

**Climate Change on Public Health in India: Future Research Directions**. Bush,K, Luber G, S. Kotha R, Dhaliwal RS , Kapil V, Pascual, M,. Brown D, Frumkin H, Dhiman R , et al. *Env Health Persp* doi: 10.1289/ehp.1003000 (available at http://dx.doi.org/) Online 27 January 2011

The scope of the problem in India is enormous, based on the potential for climate change and variability to exacerbate endemic malaria, dengue, yellow fever, cholera, and chikungunya, as well as chronic diseases, particularly among the millions of people who already experience poor sanitation, pollution, malnutrition, and a shortage of drinking water. Ongoing efforts to study these risks were discussed but remain scant. A universal theme of the recommendations developed was the importance of improving the surveillance, monitoring, and integration of meteorological, environmental, geospatial, and health data while working in parallel to implement adaptation strategies.

Article available on line at: http://pubmedcentralcanada.ca/articlerender.cgi?accid=PMC3114809

**Climate forcing and desert malaria: the effect of irrigation**. Baeza A, Bouma M, Dobson A., Dhiman R, Srivastava H and Pascual M. *Malaria Journal* 2011, 10:190 doi:10.1186 /1475-2875-10-190

The study specifically focuses on the response of malaria epidemics to rainfall forcing and how this response is affected by increasing irrigation. Remote sensing data for the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) are used as an integrated measure of rainfall to examine correlation maps within the districts and at regional scales.

The results show that irrigation dampens the influence of climate forcing on the magnitude and frequency of malaria epidemics and, therefore, reduces their predictability. This implies that irrigation can lead to more endemic conditions for malaria creating the potential for unexpectedly large epidemics in response to excess rainfall, if these climatic events coincide with a relaxation of control over time.

Article available online at: http://www.malariajournal.com/content/10/1/190/abstract

**TR11-04 Final Report. Summer Institute on Climate Information for Public Health 2011**, Palisades, New York .May 16-May 27,2011 .R. Lowe, G. Mantilla and L. Mendiola *IRI*, July 2011.

The fourth Summer Institute on Climate Information for Public Health (SI) was held at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Campus, Palisades, New York last May .It was designed to engage professionals who play a key role in the operational decision making for climate-sensitive diseases in identifying and evaluating appropriate use of climate information.

This report describes the content and the evaluation of the course with summaries of each training module. It also introduces the participants – organizers, trainees, lecturers, facilitators, sponsors and support staff – who contributed to the success of SI 11.

The full report is available from the IRI's website at: http://iri.columbia.edu/publications/id=1123

**Health in the Green Economy: Health co-benefits of climate change mitigation- Housing sector**. World Health Organization 2011

This report considers the scientific evidence regarding possible health gains and, where relevant, health risks of climate change mitigation measures in the residential housing sector. The report is one in a Health in the Green Economy series led by WHO's Department of Public Health and Environment.

The report documents how certain mitigation options can yield substantial co-benefits to health. Some choices, however, may be better than others in terms of health impacts, or reducing health risks. New and sometimes overlooked opportunities are also examined where health gains and sustainability objectives can be mutually reinforcing.

Available online PDF file [136p.] at http://bit.ly/kx7JJA

**A human health perspective on climate change**. Produced by: Environmental Health Perspectives (2010). Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, UK

This report highlights 11 key categories of diseases and other health consequences that are occurring or will occur due to climate change. The purpose of this paper is to identify research needs for all aspects of the research-to-decision making pathway that will help us understand and mitigate the health effects of climate change, as well as ensure that we choose the healthiest and most efficient approaches to climate change adaptation. This way, the authors provide a starting point for coordination of research to better understand climate's impact on human health.

The report also examines a number of cross-cutting issues for research in this area, including susceptible, vulnerable, and displaced populations; public health and health care infrastructure; capacities and skills needed; and communication and education efforts. …"

Available online at: http://1.usa.gov/koXDmB

**Sustainable Land Management Technologies for Climate Change Adaptation in Africa.** William Critchley. International Institute fro Environment and Development, London, UK. April 2011.

These mini-films, of 5-7 minutes each, show two sustainable land management (SLM) technologies that have a proven track record in Africa: Stone Lines and Fanya Juu. The technologies presented can constitute important components within the climate change adaptation strategies of small-scale farmers.

Making use of archive and new footage, each technology is presented in a consistent way: this includes construction, views of mature structures/systems and dynamic graphics showing how each functions.. This is then complemented by interviews with farmers. If you would like a free copy of a DVD please email: newbooks@iied.org

**Working paper: 'Framing of climate change adaptation in policy and practice'.** Hartmut Funfgeld and Darryn McEvoy. Victorian Center for Climate Change Adaptation Research. April 2011

The paper is a research output of the project 'Framing multi-level and multi-actor adaptation responses in the Victorian context', funded by the Victorian Government (Australia) through the Victorian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation Research (VCCCAR).

The paper and further information about the project can be accessed online:
http://www.vcccar.org.au/content/pages/framing-project

# Contact Information

Please contact ciph@iri.columbia.edu to send your comments or materials to be included in the next CIPHA newsletter. The deadline for documents to be included in the next issue is October 20th, 2011.



If you have questions about IRI activities, please visit our home pate: http://iri.columbia.edu

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Available from http://iri.columbia.edu/education/ciphnews

# Related Links

http://iri.columbia.edu
http://www.climatecenter.org

# Editorial Board

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