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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

In October, the IRI, along with Columbia University's Earth Institute, played host to the first International Conference on Climate Services.

The conference, organized jointly with the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the US National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), the German Climate Service Center (CSC), and the UK Met Office, brought together climate information users, providers, researchers and donors to discuss ways to improve the development and provision of climate services. Importantly, the conference also launched the Climate Services Partnership, an international consortium geared toward improving climate services worldwide.

For those not familiar with the terminology, climate services involve the timely and targeted provision of climate information in a way that allows non-experts to use that information to address specifics social problems. Climate services include early warning systems and other information products; they may be geared toward near-term impacts of seasonal climate variability or toward long-term planning and/or adaptation to climate change. They are found in all sectors and in all regions of the world.

As members of the Climate Information for Public Health Action (CIPHA) network are well aware, climate services to improve health outcomes are particularly prolific and are springing up all over the world – many designed and implemented by alumni of the Summer Institute on Climate Information

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for Public Health at the IRI or in other parts of the world. With the conclusion of the Training Institute on Climate and Health in Piriapolis Uruguay last month, we are happy to add a new crop of alumni to this growing group of specialists in climate and health.

The Training Institute was organized jointly by the IRI, the InterAmerican Institute for Global Change Research, Mercosur's Intergovernmental Commission for Environmental Health and Labor, and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). Over the course of two weeks, the course's 23 participants from 9 countries explored the relationship between climate and health in the Mercosur region of South America. Participants also gained experience with several tools to help them continue to illuminate this relationship, including the IRI Data Library, GIS, R, and a range of statistical methods.

The course also allowed participants to test their proposal-writing skills, as the InterAmerican Institute for Global Change Research put up more than $80K to support seed project on climate and health in the region.

After an a series of intense rounds of writing and revision, projects will be implemented on varied topics, including the development of an integrated system to manage climate and health data on the local level in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru; the strengthening of technical capacity for the development of climate and health applications in Ecuador, Panama, and Peru; disease in relation to climate variability in border cities in Brazil and Uruguay, and an investigation of the impacts of climatic variability on the incidence of transmissible and non-transmissible diseases in urban centers of Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil.

We are very excited to see how these projects develop, and to have expanded the Climate Information for Public Health Action network to such a dynamic group of professionals and academics in Latin America. We encourage those of you with more experience in the CIPHA network to reach out to our partners in Mercosur and, as always, to stay in contact with our team in the Palisades. Drop us a line if you're interested in learning more about the Climate Services Partnership!

Updates

Alumni

SI2009 Rachel Lowe, from the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) will be convening a session at the European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2012 to be held in Vienna Austria 22 – 27 April 2012. The session entitled "Climate and infectious disease interactions" will form part of the Climate: Past, Present, Future programme. The session will focus on the interactions between climate and infectious disease incidence from monthly/seasonal to multi-decadal timescales.

Contributions will examine how climate anomalies and extremes influence the distribution of infectious disease, both in tropical and extra-tropical regions. A wide range of methodologies will be reported including statistical and dynamical disease modeling approaches. In addition to using past and present observational climate data, studies that examine the potential of using state-of-the-art forecasting systems for developing health early warning systems, or climate scenario integrations to project future health risk, are particularly welcome. Members of the CIPHA community are strongly encouraged to submit an abstract to this session.

For further details please see **http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2012/session/9705**

SI2010 Gustavo Almeira (Argentina's Met Office) and 2009 SI Rachel Lowe (ICPT) participated as facilitators in the Climate and Health Training Institute hold in Piriapolis, Uruguay last month. They adapted some of the Summer Institute materials into this training, which demonstrated how CIPHA members became trainers of trainees

SI2009 Cristina Recalde was accepted to the Climate and Society Master Program at Columbia last August. Ever since, she is working very closely with the Latin American Program at IRI, on different projects.

SI2011 Jennifer Vanos successfully defended her PhD last month and she is getting ready to take a Postdoctoral Fellowship with Health Canada in Ottawa, Ontario, starting in January. She will be working in the Population Health Studies Division researching the impacts of air pollution and heat on human health and mortality

Upcoming Courses

Ecohealth: Workshop in Epidemiology and Outbreak Investigation . Madison, WI, USA. June 2012

EcoHealthNet is a program for US and international graduate students who are interested in infectious disease research. EcoHealthNet is comprised of 2 parts: an annual workshop and a research exchange program. To apply, or for more information, please visit the program page.

11th International NCCR Climate Summer School: "The Water Cycle in a Changing Climate: Observations, Scenarios, Impacts". Ticino, Switzerland, September 9 – 14 2012.

The National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCR) Climate, Switzerland's Centre of Excellence in Climate and Climate Impact Research, invite young scientists to join leading climate researchers in a scenic southern Swiss Alpine setting on the occasion of the 11th International NCCR Climate Summer School 2012.

The Summer School focuses on "the water cycle in a changing climate". This theme has been chosen given its paramount importance in terms of both scientific challenges and pressing societal concerns. The specific topics to be addressed include: Observed variations of the water cycle, Physical processes governing the hydrological response to climate change, Scenarios of the water cycle in a changing climate, Anticipated impacts

Detailed information and the application form are available at: http://www.nccr-climate.unibe.ch/summer_school/2012/

Upcoming Events

The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) Health and Disaster Risk Reduction Consultation was held by the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, Switzerland, on 14 - 16 November, 2011. It is expected that the consultation will inform the User-Interface-Platform of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Global Framework for Climate Services, to ensure climate services meet health end-user needs, in addition to identifying short and long term issues, objectives and specific priority projects to enhance use of climate services to support health and DRR objectives.

SI 2008 alum Joy Guillemot, from WHO, was highly involved in the organization of this consultation, which was also attended by with Dr Yolande Nirina Raoelina, co-chair of the Climate and Health Working Group of Madagascar, and a familiar figure to CIPHAN readers, and by Abhere Miretie from the Anti-Malaria Association in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, an active advocate for climate and health activities.

Details on the outcomes of the meeting will be shared in the CIPHAN Newsletter as soon as they become available.

In the meantime, for more information, visit:

http://www.who.int/globalchange/mediacentre/events/2011/health_disaster_risk_reduction_consultation/en/index.html

The Durban Climate Change Conference, held between November 29 and December 10 in South Africa, will pay special attention to public health issues. Based on the increasing engagement of the global health community, a range of partners including WHO, National Governments, Development Banks, and NGOs, will highlight health within the negotiations. At least 12 side events will touch on aspects of health and climate change, ranging from improving health representation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and sustainable development negotiations; implementation of the African regional framework for health adaptation, and a "Climate and Health Summit" led by the NGO community. Stay tuned on the CIPHA network for updated information on the conference!
More information is available from:

http://www.who.int/globalchange/mediacentre/events/2011/durban_climate_change_conference/en/index.html

International Conference on "Opportunities and Challenges in Monsoon. Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology ,India - Pune. February 21-25, 2012**.**

Prediction in a Changing Climate Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) will be completing 50 years of its glorious existence in 2012. As a part of year long Golden Jubilee celebrations of IITM, a five-day International Conference on "Opportunities and Challenges in Monsoon Prediction in a Changing Climate".

For more details, please visit the conference webpage: http://www.tropmet.res.in/ochamp

ESF Research Conference Announcement: Modes of Variability in the Climate System: Past - Present – Future. Obergurgl, Austria. 27 May - 1 June 2012,

This conference organized by The European Science Foundation (ESF) in partnership with the Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck (LFUI) will provide lectures by invited high level speakers, short talks by young and early stage researchers, poster sessions, round table and open discussion periods, and forward look panel discussion about future developments.

The conference is open to everybody interested in the topic. Participants will be selected on a competitive basis. All participants are expected to present a poster about their research.

More information available online at: http://www.esf.org/index.php?id=9094

Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition – NEHA-AEC. San Diego, California. June 28-30, 2012.

The NEHA AEC is designed to train, educate, and advance people who have an interest or career in environmental health and protection, as well as to bring people together to build a professional network of environmental health colleagues, exchange information, and discover new and practical solutions to environmental health issues. More information available online at: www.neha2012aec.org

Interdisciplinary Climate Change Research Symposium. Colorado Springs, CO. October 13-20, 2012

During the weeks long symposium, the 30 invited Dissertations Initiative for the Advancement of Climate Change Research (DISCCRS) scholars will have the opportunity to present their research, hone interdisciplinary communication and teambuilding skills, and discuss emerging research and trends. Scholars will also have the chance to talk about the societal and professional challenges involved in climate change research, with each other and with established researchers invited to serve as mentors.

Symposium application instructions:

http://disccrs.org/application_instructions

Publications

World Resources 2010-2011: Decision Making in a Changing Climate is a major new resource to help developing country national-level officials make decisions that support communities and economic sectors to become more climate resilient. Based on input from more than 100 experts in 36 countries, the report offers specific, practical strategies and innovative case studies to inform how to integrate climate change risks into national policies and planning.

Produced by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Bank, and the World Resources Institute, WRR 2010-2011 is essential reading for policy makers, donors, and decision makers who must start now to prepare for a changing world.

The PDF of the full report is available at this website.

Mainstreaming environment and climate change: Health

This joint publication of The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and Irish Aid is part of a series that aims to clarify the links between the environment, climate change and key development sectors, and provide guidance on strategies available for mainstreaming the environment and climate change into national policies. This briefing focuses on health. Nearly one quarter of the global disease burden can be attributed to the environment. Improving environmental health — raising its profile at national, state and local levels, and integrating environmental health issues into development plans and activities — is critical if we are to reduce poverty and meet the Millennium Development Goals.

Full paper available: http://pubs.iied.org/G03139.html?c=climate

Global Adaptation Index Data Browser Launched. Open data visualization reveals countries' vulnerability to climate change and ability to adapt

The Global Adaptation Index™ (GAIN™), a project of the Global Adaptation Institute, provides a data-driven approach to help countries and the private sector invest in adaptation to climate change and other global forces.

Climate change is a reality and the challenge is only increasing as population growth, urbanization and economic expansion continue. All countries must adapt in order to minimize the effects of climate change and other global forces. Despite expanding resource commitments from international institutions, public funding alone is not the solution. The private sector will play a key role in providing the necessary additional resources. GAIN offers information on a country's vulnerability and its readiness to undertake adaptive actions to prioritize and evaluate these needed investments

More information available at:http://developmentseed.org/blog/2011/09/15/global-adaptation-index-data-browser-launched

The newly-updated interactive mapping website

Population Action International's mapping website shows how climate change and population dynamics will change the world over time. New features on the site include country profiles, which contain maps, graphs, videos, and additional resources that offer a closer look at population, gender, and climate change trends in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Nepal, and Peru.

High rates of population growth and climate change consequences overlap in many countries. Interactive maps illustrate how climate change impacts, demographic trends and the need for contraception are likely to affect countries' abilities to adapt to climate change.

The newly updated interactive mapping website can be viewed here:
http://www.populationaction.org/climatemap

New Journal American Meteorological Society (AMS): Weather, Climate, and Society. Vol. 3, 2011.

Weather, Climate, and Society, a quarterly journal of the American Meteorological Society, publishes scientific research and analysis on the interactions of weather and climate with society. The journal encompasses economic, policy, institutional, social, behavioral, and international research, including mitigation and adaptation to weather and climate change. Articles may focus on a broad range of topics at the interface of weather and/or climate and society, including the socioeconomic, policy, or technological influences on weather and climate, the socioeconomic or cultural impacts of weather and climate, ethics and equity issues associated with weather, climate, and society, and the historical and cultural contexts of weather, climate, and society.

More information available at: http://journals.ametsoc.org/loi/wcas

Synoptic Climatology Laboratory. Department of Geography & Regional Studies University of Miami, 2011.

The synoptic climatology laboratory performs research involving numerous applied climatological issues that affect humans and other organisms around the world. Synoptic climatology is a holistic approach to evaluate weather and climate. Synoptic climatologists attempt to characterize an entire weather situation that exists in a given area at a given time, to gain a better understanding of both the atmospheric environment and its effects on the organisms that experience it.

In this website you can find research about: Heat Health Warning Systems (HHWS), Ongoing Climate and Health Research, Applied Climate Indices, Air Mass Monitoring and Classification, Bioclimatological Research, International Projects, Climate Change Research, Other Research.

Information Available at: http://www.as.miami.edu/geography/research/climatology/

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 January 20th, 2012.

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