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Climate Information for Public Health Action

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

The International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) has dedicated a lot of efforts and time on capacity building over the last decade. Capacity building is a challenging, long-term process, but to those of us involved in promoting the use of climate information for different scientific, development and human welfare sectors, it is part and parcel of what we do. Our goal is not only to strengthen the technical capacity of individuals and organizations to identify their data and information needs, but also to improve the collection, analysis, and use of data to inform sectors-related decision-making.

The IRI is committed to converting research knowledge gained at the interface of climate and public health into training and education materials, which are then communicated in person and in electronic media to decision-makers. For the last five years we have run more than 12 training courses, developed a Curriculum for Best Practices in Climate Information for Public Health (CIPH), created a Climate Information for Public Health Action Newsletter (CIPHA) and established a Climate Information and Public Health network linking more than 170 alumni from 35 countries. All of them have attended the Summer Institute on Climate Information for Public Health (SI-CIPH) in New York and elsewhere through tailored national courses (in Colombia, Madagascar and Ethiopia), as well as regional training courses in the Mercosur region (i.e. Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina, Brazil, Chile), the Andes (including Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia, Venezuela and Chile) and lately in Italy (covering Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America countries).

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A lot has been learned from the invaluable feedback provided by the courses' participants and facilitators, recognizing the need to develop a global community of practice in the use of climate information for public health. In that sense, the CIPHA newsletter and network play a critical intermediary role between knowledge generation and informed action. Alumni of the course have created various mechanisms to transfer and translate their climate and health knowledge at global and local levels. For example, Wendy Thomas (meteorologist), a 2008 CIPH alumna, launched the Environmental Health Symposium in 2009 under the umbrella of the Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society (AMS) using the knowledge she gathered throughout the CIPH course. This initiative still runs annually and has allowed other CIPH alumni to present their projects on climate and health.

Salua Osorio (medical doctor) is another alumna who is currently the team leader on climate and health at the Colombian National Institute of Health. Specifically, she leads a project on incorporating climate information into a vulnerability assessment in the public health sector.

Lastly, Rachel Lowe (statistical modeler) has organized two regional courses on the use of Climate Information for Public Health in partnership with the International Center for Theoretical Physic (ICTP) and recently with the IRI, the Oswaldo Cruz foundation (FioCruz) and the ICTP.

It is hoped that in the near future the CIPHA Network succeeds in reaching more participants by encouraging past participants to hold their own CIPH courses. By involving alumni in the dissemination of CIPH materials and creating online courses available in multiple languages (namely, English, French and Spanish), it is hoped that a wider audience can be reached. A lot of knowledge remains indeed to be built in the area of climate and public health, and the field efficiency of the new approaches implemented is yet to be assessed. For these reasons, it is critical that networking and interaction platforms enabling climate and public health professionals to communicate and to share their knowledge and experience exist.

The 2012-2013 CIPHA newsletter's year comes to an end in July, 2013. With that, I am turning the position of managing editor over to Madeleine Thomson, from the IRI. Madeleine has been the co-editor for the newsletter every year that I have been managing editor. It has been my pleasure to work on the newsletter since we created it in 2008.

I would like to thank everyone for his or her contributions over the years. I have enjoyed reading each and every one of them. I am proud to have helped providing this medium through which our climate and public health knowledge and efforts can be shared and strengthened, for a better global health.

Thank you for supporting the CIPHA newsletter over the years. I encourage you to continue to volunteer your time and to contribute updates in the 2013-2014 year. And thanks for the great memories!

Gilma Mantilla

Updates

Alumni

2011 SI Anna Stewart Ibarra successfully defended her Ph. D. entitled, "A socio-ecological analysis of vulnerability to dengue fever in southern coastal Ecuador," and she began working as a Research Scientist and Latin American Research Program Coordinator at the Center for Global Health and Translational Science at SUNY (State University of New York) Upstate Medical University. She is currently leading a research project funded by the U.S. Global Emerging Infections Surveillance and Response System to strengthen dengue surveillance and develop early warning systems in Ecuador.

2009 SI Rachel Lowe, a postdoctoral researcher at Institut Catala de Ciences del Clima (IC3 – Spain) organized the Spring School on Modeling Tools and Capacity Building in Climate and Health from 15 April to 26 April, in partnership with the International Center for Theoretical Physics (ICTP- Italy), the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI- New York) and the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz - Brazil). The school was hosted in Trieste (Italy) and it is funded by ICTP, with additional generous support from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

This was a two-week course where lectures were given by a large number of experts and leaders in the field from across the globe and also combined with a multitude of hands-on practical exercises for the participants and students to practice the techniques they have learned. Thirty-four professionals from Africa, Europe, Asia and Latina America countries were trained.

The spring school was designed and implemented following the Summer Institute on CIPH model developed by IRI. For more information, please refer to the spring school website.

2011 SI Paula Carvalho Pereda successfully defended her Ph. D. entitled, "Long and short run climate impacts on Brazil: Theory and Evidence for Agriculture and Health", and she began working as a Course Coordinator of the Business School at Fundação Armando Alvares Penteado (commonly referred to as FAAP) and temporary Professor at University of Sao Paulo.

Facilitators

SI 08-11 Madeleine Thomson attended the Meeting on the Malaria Research Agenda in the Americas where she gave a presentation on IRI approach on Climate and Malaria. She also participated on the Exploratory Discussions Regarding Collaboration on Malaria and Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination in Hispaniola" at the Pan American Health Organization – Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) based in Washington, DC.

SI 09-11 Daniel Ruiz attended the regional workshop on the implementation of adaptation strategies to climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). The meeting was organized by the United Nations Environment Program as part of the Regional Gateway for Technology Transfer and Climate Change Action in LAC initiative and took place in Panama City the last week of April 2013.

SI 08-11 Gilma Mantilla was a co- director and lecturer on Spring School on Modeling Tools and Capacity Building in Climate and Health in Italy last April. In the same training, **Pietro Ceccato** was lecturing on Remote Sensing and its applications on Public Health.

SI 09 -11 Barbara Platzer has now moved to Nairobi to work for the Columbia Global Center in Nairobi as the Climate & Health Program Specialist. Her task is to help facilitating climate and health projects in the region and to strengthen the engagement of the IRI with regional partners.

Updates on a new network

The International Network for Demographic Evaluation of Populations and their Health (INDEPTH) will be launching on July 1st, 2013 to the international community the INDEPTH Data Repository and INDEPTHStats.

INDEPTH Data Repository is an online archive of various fully documented, high-quality datasets from INDEPTH member Health and Demographic Surveillance Systems (HDSSs) centers. Its goal is to enable INDEPTH member HDSSs and associated researchers to contribute and share HDSS datasets with the scientific community in support of the network's mission. Every dataset is documented, using an internationally accepted metadata standard developed by the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI), enabling data users to quickly identify and obtain the data they require. Through the use of digital object identifiers (doi), the documentation promotes the citing of data sets by data users and facilitates the recognition of the efforts by the INDEPTH Network to make this valuable resource of population and health data for

More info available online at: http://www.indepth-network.org/

Upcoming Courses

Joint analyses of climate and environmental variables for impact studies in sub-Saharan Africa. Dijon, France. July 1-5, 2013

This school is primarily intended to researchers working on environment and human and/or animal health in sub-Saharan Africa and wishing to increase their expertise in climate and its potential impacts.

The course will include background to climate variability, climate data processing, and climate - health relationships as well as practical training on how to process data. A typical day will consist of lectures in the morning, practical sessions in the afternoons and evening activities.

More info available online at:
http://climatologie.u-bourgogne.fr/ecole/?lang=en

MSc in Climate Sciences. University of Bern, Switzerland.

The University of Bern is at the cutting edge of climate and climate impact research and hosts the Technical Support Unit of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group I and the Project Office of International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (IGBP) Past Global Changes (PAGES). The Master of Science in Climate Sciences program is part of the Graduate School of Climate Sciences affiliated to the Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research.

More information available online at:
http://www.climatestudies.unibe.ch/msc_programme/

Summer School on Addressing climate change challenges from a multi-disciplinary perspective. Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain. July 8-10, 2013.

The objective of the summer school is to offer an updated and multidisciplinary view of the ongoing trends in climate change research. The school is organized in collaboration with the University of the Basque Country and is a high quality and excellent summer course gathering leading experts in the field and students from top universities and research centers worldwide.

The school is open to Master students, PhD students, postdoctoral fellows and other researchers as well as policy makers interested in acquiring a deep understanding of climate change and the policies designed to fight it. More information available online at: http://www.bc3research.org/summerschool2013

Upcoming Events

3rd LCIRAH Annual Conference on developing methods in agriculture and health research. London, UK. June 13-14, 2013.

The conference, organized by the Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH) will focus on methodological and integrative aspects of research in agriculture and health. It will feature the work of researchers in nutrition, economics, anthropology, veterinary science and related fields engaged in agro-health research. It aims at offering the opportunity for exchange of ideas, while providing a space for discussion and initiating new projects across disciplines.

More information available online at: http://www.lidc.org.uk/events/lcirah-3rd-annual-conference-developing-methods-agriculture-and-health-research

Africa Climate Conference 2013: Advancing African Climate Science Research & Knowledge". Arusha, Tanzania. October 15-18, 2013.

This conference aims to address new frontiers of knowledge on the African Climate system, and narrow the communication gaps currently existing between African decision-makers and climate scientists, in order to develop a coordinated collaborative research strategy to improve climate science outputs so that they may better inform climate early warning responses and adaptation in Africa.

For further information on the abstracts submissions on other topics or general questions relating to the ACC-2013 conference, please email acc2013@climdev-africa.org, or visit the conference website at: http://www.climdev-africa.org/acc2013.

2nd Global Risk Forum One Health Summit 2013. Davos, Switzerland. November 17-20, 2013.

The 2nd Global Risk Forum (GRF) One Health Summit will explore, advance and agree on the need for a global integrative risk management approach for One Health. Furthermore, the conference will identify ways to achieve added value by multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder cooperation and promote enhanced public-private partnership models for risk-based financing tools. The findings of the conference shall be used to make recommendations on policy and organizational changes and stimulate a more efficient collaboration between stakeholders.

More information available at: http://www.grforum.org

Scientific On-line Climate Conference: Opportunities and challenges for climate change management in Latin America. November 4-8, 2013.

The International Climate Change Information Program (ICCIP, www.iccip.net) is pleased to issue the first call for papers for the 6th on-line climate conference, titled Climate 2013. As usual, peer-reviewed and accepted papers -in either English or Spanish- will be published in a coming volume of the "Climate Change Management Series" with Springer.

Further details can be seen at:
http://www.klima2013.net/

International Conference on Regional Climate - CORDEX 2013. Brussels, Belgium. November 4-7, 2013.

The International Conference on Regional Climate - CORDEX 2013 brings together the international community of regional climate scientists to present and discuss results from WCRP regional climate studies, with a particular emphasis on the CORDEX initiative.

More information available online at:
http://cordex2013.wcrp-climate.org/

Publications

Globalization, Climate Change, and Human Health. McMichael, A. N Engl J Med. April 4, 2013.

This article is a brilliant up-to-date summary of the links between globalization, climate change and human health. The paper concludes, "Undertaking primary prevention at the source to reduce health risks resulting from these global influences is a formidable challenge". It requires conceptual insights beyond the conventional understanding of causation and prevention, as well as political will, trust, and resources. Meanwhile, additional resources and strategies will be needed to reduce the health risks related to global change that have already arisen or are now unavoidable. For populations to live sustainably and with good long-term health, the health sector must work with other sectors in reshaping how human societies plan, build, move, produce, consume, share, and generate energy.

Available online at: http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMra1109341

Climate Risk Management for Malaria Control in Kenya: the case of the western highlands. Karami-Dekens J., Parry Je; Zamudio N., Echeverria D. United Nations Development Program (UNDP), 2013. Paper, 57 pages, copyright: UNDP.

Despite its declining prevalence in most parts of Kenya, malaria infection continues to be the main cause of disease and mortality in the country. It is also currently re-emerging in the western highlands due to a combination of climatic and non-climatic factors. If the existing socioeconomic characteristics (such as deforestation and other land-use changes, high levels of poverty, and misaligned health interventions) remain constant, the projected rise in temperature and changes in rainfall patterns may exacerbate existing health risks and create new ones. In addition to strengthening the health system and improving collaboration among actors engaged in malaria control and climate risks, two actions should be prioritized for malaria control in the face of climate variability and change: 1) improving the monitoring and prediction of malaria epidemics in all regions by taking into account climate, health and socio-economic data, as well as by combining local knowledge of weather change with scientific knowledge, and 2) promoting a switch from top-down, universal interventions focused on technical and financial responses to more bottom-up, targeted interventions adapted to local needs and specificities that account for socio-cultural barriers.

Available online at: http://www.iisd.org/publications/pub.aspx?pno=1744

Climate Change and Disease Dynamics in India. Nitish Dogra and Sangeet Srivastava, editors. 2012.

The book is divided into three main aspects: fundamentals, impacts and applied. By examining these aspects and more, the book seeks to explore the multitude of issues related to climate change and disease dynamics, right from the basics to the bedside to the boardroom. Each chapter reviews relevant global and India-specific evidence, and also the implication of that knowledge in programmatic terms and policy implications.

Available at: http://bookstore.teriin.org/book_inside.php?material_id=646

Climate Change, Migration, and Conflict in the Amazon and the Andes, Rising Tensions and Policy Options in South America. Max Hoffman and Ana I. Grigera. February 2013.

This paper examines the interactions of climate change, environmental degradation, migration, and conflict in the Amazon, the tropical savannahs of Brazil and Bolivia, and the arid coastal plain of Peru. This report offers several recommendations for individual countries - and the region as a whole - to improve their preparation and planning for the future.

National Adaptation Planning: Lessons from OECD Countries. Mullan, M, et al. OECD Environment Working Papers, No.54, 2013.

The paper identifies a step change in national adaptation planning in developed countries over the past decade: more than three quarters of Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries have now published or are currently developing a national adaptation strategy.

The analysis surveys action on adaptation in all member countries – including case studies of Mexico, the USA and England – and provides lessons learnt from countries' experiences in evidence provision, strategic planning and policy implementation.

More info available at: http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/5k483jpfpsq1-en

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 July 20th, 2013.



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

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International Research Institute for Climate and Society, The Earth Institute at Columbia University, Palisades, NY

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

Related Links

http://iri.columbia.edu
http://ciphan.iri.columbia.edu/

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