

Responses from AAMWG for SSC-11

Process Studies

Over the last year, there has been no activity in the way of process studies that have been substantially proposed, developed and/or coordinated through US efforts in the AAM area. JASMINE II, a multi-PI level effort that was proposed in the previous year, may still be under consideration.

Enhanced Monitoring

The most relevant and important monitoring issue involves the plans and deployment of an ocean observing system in the Indian Ocean. While there appears to be considerable US involvement in terms of the planning and scientific concerns associated with this effort, the funding and deployments mainly derive from international sources (e.g., India, Japan and Australia). Our understanding is that an Indian Ocean (Observing?) Panel for CLIVAR at the international level has been proposed and is under consideration – and maybe near approval. Details regarding the actual plans and implementation of the Indian Ocean observing system were given at SSC-10. We are presently in the process of trying to determine what progress has been made in this area since then and hope to have an update by the time of the SSC-11 meeting.

Modeling

Activities associated with modeling mainly stem from the June Subseasonal meeting sponsored by the NASA, NOAA, and NSF elements of the US CLIVAR IAG. The meeting included three components. 1) An implementation meeting for the Experimental MJO Prediction Project that is being hosted by CDC/NOAA. 2) An MJO modeling/simulation workshop that discussed present-day status of MJO simulation capabilities, associated model shortcomings, and recommendations for how we might proceed to remedy these shortcomings. 3) A workshop to develop a framework to carry out a set of subseasonal hindcast experiments to assess our present-day capabilities in this area and provide research resources to examine predictability, teleconnections, and weather-climate link issues associated with this time scale. The reports from this meeting, as well as its predecessor, will be provided at the meeting.

Membership Issues

The question has been raised about the utility of continuing to have an AAMWG under US CLIVAR. Given the indication that there is little, if any, in the way of funding commitments from the US CLIVAR IAG to fund an AAM program, at least based on what has been developed and proposed thus far, it is not obvious what else the AAMWG can or should do. In conjunction with this, and somewhat as a result, there is also a relatively smaller range of activity on AAM issues occurring in the US that requires internal coordination. It is expected that this issue will be raised and discussed at the meeting.

Based on the significant increase in activities in the subseasonal area that have occurred over the last few years, partly as a result of the efforts by the AAMWG, and the greater profile that this time scale appears to be garnering as a result of its cross-cutting nature and its representation as a key link between weather and climate, the following question will be raised and discussed: Would a Subseasonal (or Intraseasonal) Variability Working Group be of sufficient utility to the SSC and IAG that its formation be warranted in order to coordinate activities and provide advice and recommendations in this area? In raising this question, an inventory of recent, present and planned activities will be given which will include both PI efforts and broader agency-level activities.
