

Report on First U.S. CLIVAR Summit
by David M. Legler

Over 50 Panel members (including representatives from the previous regional panels), interested scientists, and agency representatives attended the first annual U.S. CLIVAR Summit, August 15-20, in Keystone, Colorado (ironically, in Summit County!). Everyone enjoyed the scenic location and availability of nearby recreational diversions during this inaugural meeting of the reorganized U.S. CLIVAR. Unfortunately, rockslides on the interstate between Denver and Keystone made for longer driving trips for many.

The purpose of the Summit was to consider and chart the future of the U.S. CLIVAR program in the three broad areas that correspond to our new Panels: Phenomena, Observations, and Syntheses (POS), Process Studies and Model Improvement (PSMI), and Predictability, Predictions, and Applications Interface (PPAI) and to continue forward momentum of activities in various stages of planning and implementation. The first portion of the meeting focused on highlighting the national, international, and agency program context of CLIVAR, and important linkages to U.S. CLIVAR. GEWEX and the Ocean Carbon Cycle provided updates on their programs and suggested areas for potential linkages to U.S. CLIVAR. The Panels (Table 1) were then charged to develop long-term and near-term objectives, determine the scientific activities required to achieve these objectives, and identify specific Panel actions that will be undertaken to facilitate progress. Additionally, the Panels were asked to consider how activities in various stages of planning and implementation will (or could) contribute towards these objectives and how these activities should move forward. The Panels met individually, with each other, and with agency program managers over the course of a few days to begin building their strategic visions, identifying issues common to more than one Panel, and discussing a range of specific activities. They also discussed topics for Working Groups (small, focused groups, with limited lifetime) to accelerate implementation and coordination in critical areas.

Table 1 List of US CLIVAR Panels and Co-Chairs

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| Phenomena, Observations, and Syntheses (POS) | John Marshal (MIT), Sumant Nigam (Univ of Maryland) |
| Process Studies and Model Improvement (PSMI) | Meghan Cronin (PMEL), Paul Schopf – interim (George Mason University) |
| Predictability, Predictions, and Applications Interface (PPAI) | Lisa Goddard (IRI), Alex Hall (UCLA) |

The Panels presented their plans and recommendations (which were still very much in draft form) in plenary. The initial issues and objectives the Panels considered and raised at the Summit were very exciting and resonated with the agencies. The Panels embraced the historical directions of the program and also took great steps towards identifying overarching objectives that covered a range of time scales from subseasonal to decadal and longer, vexing challenges for which community-wide engagement is required, and phenomena of great interest to the scientific and decision-making

communities that need additional research to understand, characterize, assess predictability of, and develop prediction capabilities. Agency program managers provided very positive feedback on the planning achieved at the Summit and encouraged the Panels to move forward quickly to flesh out their plans.

The three Panels are now carefully building on their Summit discussions, and talking to other Panels so that a cogent and balanced strategy is developed. The Panels will be completing brief written strategy documents over the next several months. Our plan is to complete draft overviews of Panel plans this Fall after which we will solicit community (both national and international) input and reactions as we begin to more fully engage the agency programs and the community to address the challenges identified in these plans.

Progress towards these community plans can be monitored through the U.S. CLIVAR web site (<http://www.usclivar.org>). Announcements about the availability of draft US CLIVAR strategies will be distributed through emails. We encourage the community to provide feedback to these planning efforts through the U.S. CLIVAR Office, through our web page, or through the Panel co-chairs and Panel members.