

Topics Discussed at PPAI Sub-annual meeting, AGU – 14 December 2006

1) Update on CMEP extension. Initiated in Dec 2003, and funded in 2004, CMEP was originally a set of 18 SGERs (Small Grants for Exploratory Research – funding from NOAA, NASA, NSF & DOE) of 25k for researchers to look at aspects of the IPCC models representation of 20th century climate. At 2006 US CLIVAR Summit the PPAI Panel suggested an extension of that program, with a focus on drought, and also potentially incorporating the downscaling runs forced by the IPCC projections (i.e. from NARCAP).

From David Legler:

The CMEP activity for drought (which now has a name.... **DRICOMP** - DRought In COupled Models Project), as proposed by US CLIVAR PPAIP, is moving forward. Currently it looks like commitments from NOAA, NASA, NSF, and DOE will provide funding for somewhere between 15-20 small supplemental grants of up to \$30K. AO language, selection process, and timeline are under development. Currently (subject to change), the intent is to release information on this opportunity in January.

DRICOMP PIs will be expected to attend a workshop in 2008. I am working under the assumption that the Drought WG will be organizing this workshop which will provide opportunity for both DRICOMP PIs and Drought WG to communicate their respective results and identify some paths forward.

The delays by Congress to approve FY07 budget is not good news overall, but because we have firm commitments from most of the agencies, the CMEP-drought activity will happen (barring some major unforeseen budgetary catastrophe). Only the number of funded projects is expected to be impacted by actual availability of funding.

Congrats to the PPAIP and to those who helped stimulate this suggestion.

2) Update on Climate Prediction Applications Postdoctoral Program (CPAPP)

FYI – this acronym was provided by Eileen Shea. Apparently CPAP also stands for Continuous Positive Airway Pressure – a device that forces air into your respiratory system, the analogy being that through this program we are applying positive pressure of the climate information into the very air breathed by the decision makers/risk managers affected by climate variability and change. OK – maybe a bit of a stretch, but still better than ‘Applications Interface Postdoctoral Program’ that I had before. If anyone has a better name, let us know – the announcements haven’t gone out yet.

So, update is that this program is going forward. Chet Koblinsky committed 150k from NOAA, which will cover the 50% for 3 post-docs asked for in this pilot program phase. With that we can start to identify interested Target Agencies that can provide the other 50% (if/when participating), and if this program indicates success we can submit proposals to the other national funding agencies to leverage money necessary to grow the program.

An Oversight Committee is being set up. Current members include: Lisa Goddard, Kelly Redmond, Ben Kirtman, Simon Mason, Eileen Shea, Brad Udall, Ed Sarachik. We still need some representatives from Target Agencies. If any PPAI members feel strongly about joining the Oversight Committee, let me know. A short meeting is being planned on Jan 18 to coincide with the AMS in Austin, TX. If you are going to be there, and would like to attend this evening meeting, let me know.

3) Tropical Biases Working Group

Ben Kirtman gave an update on this (Ben and Paul Schopf authored the prospectus). It was not approved at this time by the US CLIVAR Interagency Group (IAG). The main criticisms were that the suggested membership did not have enough representation from the observations community and that the WG seemed too much “business as usual”. Given that VOCALS is going ahead and that is focused on biases in cold tropical ocean regions, it was thought that perhaps something that could be novel from this WG and complementary to VOCALS would be a focus on biases in warm pool regions. Ben and Paul will work on that, as well as the membership list, and develop a revised prospectus.

4) Decadal predictability Working Group

Lisa Goddard gave an update on this (Lisa and Vikram Mehta authored the prospectus). This WG was also not approved at this time by the IAG. The main criticism was that the work activities did not seem to be sufficiently focused or targeted at specific questions. Our meeting spent a considerable amount of time discussing this issue: whether such a WG even makes sense at this time from the PPAI panel, and if so, what it should do that is feasible, helpful, and in line with the goals of the PPAI panel.

I have attached my notes from this discussion. It includes the briefings on current thinking/questions on decadal variability over the Atlantic and Pacific basins, what was concluded in terms of a potential WG activity and a start on a membership list.

The bottom line was that the WG would produce a white paper pulling together what’s known on decadal variability, emphasizing and prioritizing the prospects/feasibility for prediction and (if deemed feasible) what is needed from the research community and observational network(s) to make progress towards prediction.

Dan Vimont, who was suggested as a co-chair in the first draft prospectus, indicated he would be interested in helping develop the revised prospectus (unfortunately, he was unable to attend our meeting). I will be working with him on this.

5) Membership issues

We discussed gaps in our expertise, and what new membership could potentially fill that. We also brought up the issue of rotation of current members.

Alex will be sending an email in the near future about these matters.