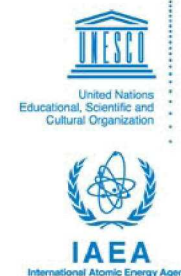




The Abdus Salam
International Centre for Theoretical Physics



WORKSHOP ON HIGH-IMPACT WEATHER PREDICTABILITY AND INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR AFRICA and AMMA-THORPEX FORECASTERS' HANDBOOK

5 - 8 October 2009

Co-sponsored by the WMO / WWRP Thorpex Trust Fund and RIPIECSA

The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), in collaboration with, and with funding provided through, the WMO Thorpex (The Observing system Research and Predictability EXperiment) Trust Fund, is organizing the "Workshop on High-Impact Weather Predictability and Information System for Africa" to be held 5 to 8 October 2009 in Trieste, Italy.

Introduction

The African continent is afflicted by high-impact weather and climate related events that can have severe consequences for local populations in terms of livelihood, food and water security, and health impacts. Examples can include

- * *Tropical cyclones in southeast Africa* * *Severe dust storms in north and west Africa* *
- * *Extensive breaks, late onset or early withdrawal of the rainy seasons* *
- * *Prolonged drought periods* * *Extreme precipitation events* * *Severe winds* * *Cold/heat waves* *

The key question is to understand what determines the predictability of these events, both deterministically for individual cases and statistically over entire seasons in seasonal prediction systems. A severe impediment to progress in this endeavour is a lack of documented cases of high impact events, indicating the need for a mechanism to collect and exchange high impact weather data to facilitate processes and predictability studies. There is a requirement to establish a new database of key high-impact African weather events, consisting of observations, model output, and event-documentation, which would be a key resource for meteorological research to improve weekly to seasonal prediction both for and by African nations.

Under the direction of Dr. Doug Parker of the University of Leeds, the workshop will also dedicate one day to the AMMA-THORPEX FORECASTERS' HANDBOOK, which includes the objectives of long-term documentation of existing forecasting methods, sharing of existing good practice, testing of existing forecasting tools, new methods and new data sources, and development of new tools for forecaster training and wider meteorological education.

Workshop Sessions

- Case studies of high-impact weather events in Africa (scientific, societal, economic aspects)
- Data, methods, procedures and tools for high-impact weather processes and predictability studies
- Framework (metrics, strategies, etc.) for evaluation of high impact weather predictive skill
- Hardware and software requirements and data formats for the database
- AMMA-THORPEX Forecasters' Handbook

Participation

Applications are invited from scientists interested in weather and climate in Africa, from both developed and developing countries that are members of the United Nations, UNESCO or IAEA. The attendees will be invited to present a summary, in oral or poster form, of the particular high-impact weather phenomenon that affects their region of interest, and/or summarize the observational/reanalysis datasets and model output they may contribute to the database.

The activity will be conducted in English. ICTP funds, with the additional support of the WMO Thorpex Trust Fund, are available for participants from developing nations, however every effort should be made by candidates to secure support for their travel expenses. There is no registration fee and no cost for course material.



THORPEX
A World Weather Research Programme



RIPIECSA



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DEADLINE
1 JUNE 2009

Applications are to be submitted
online through the activity webpage

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