



- Making a Difference – Scientific Capacity Building & Enhancement for Sustainable Development in Developing Countries

Workshop on "The Asian Monsoon System: Prediction of Change and Variability"

> Final Report for APN CAPaBLE Project: CBA2007-07NSY







Workshop on "The Asian Monsoon System: Prediction of Change and Variability"

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Final Report submitted to APN

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Overview of project work and outcomes

Non-technical summary

Despite the enormous significance of change and variability in the Asian monsoon system for human activities, an inadequate number of scientists in APN region have an up-to-date knowledge of recent advances in monsoon science. To rectify this situation, the Advanced Institute on "The Asian Monsoon System: Prediction of Change and Variability" was conducted during 2-11 January 2008 at the East-West Center located on the campus of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Participants were twenty early career scientists from the Asia-Pacific region, selected through a competitive application and review process from an applicant pool of 98 applicants, from many APN member countries including, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, USA, and Vietnam. Lecturers at the institute were prominent senior monsoon scientists from many APN countries, including USA, Japan, Korea, China and India. The young participants and lecturers interacted through a series of lectures, discussions and social activities that fostered research network development, knowledge and idea exchange, and ideas/proposals for future collaboration. Specific activities focused on:

• Review of latest advances in Monsoon science, especially in relation to variability and predictability of the Asian monsoon, associated hydrological cycle and other key factors affecting monsoon system including GHG emissions and aerosols

• Practical hands-on experience with accessing and use of a comprehensive data and information system related to Asian monsoon based at the University of Hawaii

• Formation of sub-groups on inter-seasonal, intra-seasonal and longer term variability of the monsoon and development of ideas/proposals for longer-term collaborative research

• Awareness of and involvement in international science programs of WCRP (CLIVAR, GEWEX)

Objectives

In the context of APN's CAPABLE program, to conduct an advanced institute on the dynamics, variability and prediction of the Asian Monsoon system aimed at informing early career young Asian scientists about the latest advances in monsoon science; fostering a network of collaborating scientists and institutions to enhance regional collaborative research in the APN region; and develop ideas and proposals for future research in the context of APN priorities.

Amount received and number years supported

APN awarded US\$ 50,000 during FY 2007; the effort was to be conducted during the APN FY (April 2007 – March 2008).

Work undertaken

Initial major task involved selection of 20 early career scientists for participation in the advanced institute. The first call for applications from young, early-career scientists from Asia-Pacific region was issued in June 2007. Over 100 young scientists sent in applications. The applications were collated and reviewed by an international panel drawn from START and IPRC, and final selection was made in October of 2007. A "face book" of all participants was prepared and a website set up for hosting all pertinent information related to the institute.

A second major task involved planning of the institute agenda and identification of senior faculty from various APN countries. This required development of the

curriculum and various practicum activities as well as assignments of responsibility for specific sections of the curriculum to senior faculty.

The third task focused on coordination between START, IPRC/U. Hawaii and the East-West Center on meeting venue and logistics including travel of participants and lecturers, accommodation, and collation of resources such as reading material and latest publications on the Asian Monsoon system (each participant received a complementary book volume on the Asian monsoon system edited by Prof, Bin Wang). A key aspect was securing commitments from various partners for collateral support, including financial as well as in-kind contributions.

The next task was actual conduct of the institute session.

The final task was preparation of this final report and two short summary statements for publication in EOS (a leading international geosciences journal) and the APN newsletter.

Results

The effort fully achieved all objectives. Early career scientists from APN member countries were brought together to exchange ideas, develop their networks, and learn about the latest data and methodologies used to study the Asian monsoon system. Human resource capacity was enhanced, a regional research network was developed and key institutions in the APN-region engaged in collaboration for future research on the variability and prediction of the Asian monsoon system. A list-serve of all participants and senior scientists is active and enables frequent communication and exchange of ideas. A website has been created (<u>http://www.start.org/Monsoon2008/home.html</u>); this contains full information on the institute, including summaries of lectures and various sub-groups and biographical information on all participants.

Relevance to the APN CAPaBLE Programme and its Objectives

The effort under this APN grant was fully consistent with all objectives of APN's CAPaBLE Programme. Specifically, the effort:

- Collated, synthesized and transferred latest knowledge as well as tools (e.g., numerical models, diagnostic methodologies) on the variability and prediction the Asian monsoon system;
- Enhanced regional scientific capabilities of young, early career scientists from Asia-Pacific;
- Promoted future regional collaboration among scientists and institutions in the APN region and provided the context of the international science programs, especially the World Climate Research Programme;
- Improved access to data and computing resources at the institutions of the senior faculty (the International Pacific Research Center, the Asia-Pacific Climate Center, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, the Frontiers of Global Change Program of the JAMSTEC of Japan, and the US CLIVAR Program), as well as the resources at the institutions of the participants (e.g., MIT, Institute of Atmospheric Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, etc.).

Self evaluation

The institute was a resounding success for both the organizers/senior scientists and the participants. This is evident from the reactions of the participants at the conclusion of the institute session and also from the post-institution written feedback received from participants. The participants praised the institute

organization and execution, found the knowledge and tools acquired to be of direct benefit to their research and career and became enthusiastic members of the regional research network.

It is worth noting that the twenty participants were selected from a much larger pool of applicants. Clearly there is a great and as yet unmet demand for such institute sessions and much remains to be done to fully engage the young and early career scientists from the Asia-Pacific region in to productive research on the important, relevant and pressing problem of variability and prediction of the Asian monsoon. APN should definitely consider repeating such institute session over the next several years.

The participants also suggested that future such events be spread over a longer (3week) period as that would allow more time for practicum and hands-on training, especially on use of numerical models. In this context, it is important to note constraints of funding, availability of senior scientists and physical facilities restricted the institute session to two weeks. **APN may be well advised to consider allocation of more resources for future such events**.

Potential for further work

This institute generated several ideas for future research, especially on the variability of the Asian monsoon system at various temporal scales relevant to the society in the region. At least one specific research proposal is under development by a sub-group of the young participants and may be submitted to APN in response to the next APN call for proposal due out in 2008. A list-serve has been set up to ensure that the participants and faculty remain in contact. The participants have been alerted about a number of recently advertised opportunities for research.

Publications

1. Participant and Faculty Face book

2. Webpage - http://www.start.org/Monsoon2008/home.html

3. Institute summaries have been submitted for publication in EOS and the APN newsletter.

Acknowledgments

The institute was made possible through financial and in-kind support of several institutions. APN was the main financial contributor and made it possible for sixteen participants to attend the institute. Other donors included the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, the International Pacific Research Center, International START Secretariat, and the faculty from various institutions who generously donated their time and experience. We are most grateful to all donors who made this valuable effort possible.

Technical Report

Preface

The Asian Monsoon system that dominates the climate of the Asia-Pacific region has an effect on around sixty-percent of Earth's human population inhabiting the region. The system influences lives and livelihoods through impacts on ecosystem goods and services, including water resources, agricultural productivity, and socioeconomic activity. According to the recent IPCC reports, such impacts will likely become more prominent as the climate system undergoes global warming as a result of enhanced regional industrial transformation and the growing population. The Asian monsoon system is the prominent seasonal feature of the global climate system; its spatial and temporal variability is expected to be significantly different in a warmer world. Changing sea level, increased storm surges and floods, intense and more frequent storms are projected for the region. It is therefore crucial that regional scientists have a strong understanding of the behaviour and variability of the Asian monsoon system at various temporal scales. The advanced institute on monsoon predictability and prediction was a concerted action aimed at enhancing the human resource capacity in the region that focused on young, early career scientists. The effort also aimed to develop a regional research network of scientists and institutions to learn and share the newest analytical and numerical techniques, diagnostic methodologies, and datasets.

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1. Introduction

The Asian monsoon, one of the most complex interactions between the Earth's land surface, ocean, atmosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, biosphere, and human activities, impacts over three billion people in Asia alone. With this in mind it is hard to think of anything more important than the Asian monsoon in terms of the impact to society of climate variability and future change. As yet, an inadequate number of scientists in the Asia-Pacific region have an up-to-date knowledge of advances in monsoon science. In fact, apart from the APEC Climate Center and a few national institutions in Japan, China, India and Korea, most Asia-Pacific nations devote a majority of their technical human resource capability to weather forecasting and relatively simpler, mostly statistical and diagnostic, analysis of seasonal behaviour of the current monsoon season. Within the region, the capability to undertake significant and dedicated research on the variability of the monsoon system at scales ranging from inter-seasonal to decadal and longer term is woefully inadequate. The CLIVAR/WCRP's Asia-Australia Monsoon panel is dominated by scientists from USA, Europe and the few select countries of Asia listed above. It is therefore imperative that young scientists from the region be entrained and encouraged to undertake research on the Asian monsoon system. This project was developed to meet this need for capacity building through an initial intensive advanced institute session for early career researchers and practitioners.

The project was developed by the International START Secretariat in consultation with its regional committees and centers in Asia and in close collaboration with the CLIVAR/WCRP project, its Asia-Australia Monsoon Panel, and the International Pacific Research Center based at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The Asia-pacific Network for Global Change Research provided a grant through its CAPABLE program and additional collateral (cash and in-kind) resources were leveraged from various partners to implement the effort.

2. Methodology

Once funding was secured in May 2007, a call for applications from young scientists to attend the institute session was circulated throughout the global change community in the region and through APN nFPs. By the application deadline of 1 August 2007, close to 100 applicants had submitted completed applications. The applicant materials were collected at the START Secretariat where they went under initial review and a culled set of most qualified applicants was shared with Prof. Bin Wang of IPRC (institute director) and a number of prominent monsoon researchers from Asia-Pacific region for additional comments/advice. Twenty finalists for participation were selected from the short-list of applicants. Official invitations to attend the institute were sent on 1 October 2007. All twenty applicants accepted the invitation to attend.

The agenda and format for the institute session was designed by Prof. Bin Wang in close consultation with the START Secretariat staff and selected senior lecturers. The institute session was held at the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii at Manoa during 2-12 January 2008. All but two invited participants and one faculty member, who were unfortunately not awarded US visas for various reasons, attended the institute. In addition students and faculty of the IPRC also participated as informal attendees, adding to the knowledge and networking pool. The agenda for the institute session is located in appendix of this report.

Invited lectures reviewed progresses and outstanding issues, covering a wide range of topics about the Asian monsoon system including:

- introduction to the Pacific Data Center and various other data sources;
- the Asian monsoon's variability on various time scales, including diurnal cycle, extreme and high-impacts weather, intraseasonal oscillations, annual cycle, interannual and interdecadal variations;
- the physical processes governing the monsoon weather and climate variability, including: atmospheric internal dynamic processes and low-frequency nonlinear feedbacks within the climate system, monsoon interactions with land surface and topography, warm pool ocean dynamics, roles of topography, especially the Tibetan Plateau, snow and ice/glaciers in Himalayas, vegetation and carbon cycle, aerosols, and land cover and land use changes,
- interactions of the Asian monsoon system with other major modes of the variability of the Earth's climate (ENSO, Pacific Decadal oscillation, etc.);
- predictability of the Asian monsoon on intraseasonal, interannual and decadal time scales, dynamical and stochastic modelling and prediction; past changes in the monsoon system and projections of future state of the Asian monsoon based on IPCC analyses.

Power point presentations and lecture materials are available on the institute website: <u>http://www.start.org/Monsoon2008/home.html</u>. In addition, every young participant received as a ready reference a complimentary copy of a recent book on Asian Monsoon edited by Prof, Bin Wang.

The participants presented their current and proposed future research. Discussion followed the presentations and included constructive comments and exchange. Relevance to current research challenges and priorities and potential new avenues of collaborative research were also considered.

Collaboration during the institute was fostered through designation of the participants in to four subgroups (intraseasonal-seasonal variability, interseasonal variability, decadal and longer-term variability, prediction/predictability of the monsoon system) based on participants' interests. Within these groups the participants discussed possible future research questions and collaborations. A number of innovative ideas were explored and at least one subgroup plans to develop a proposal in anticipation of the upcoming APN call for proposals.

3. Results & Discussion

The institute session was very successful. Organizers succeeded in bringing together early career scientists and established faculty in to close interaction in both lecture units as well as discussions. Knowledge transfer was accomplished through lectures and discussions, and relationships were built throughout the institute. The highly enthusiastic group of participants is likely to keep in touch and build upon the work initiated at the institute. One participant helped in setting up a list-serve for future communication and interaction amongst the participants and faculty.

Post-institute all participants were sent a questionnaire regarding the institute. The responses have been uniformly positive as illustrated in the graph below and a sample of comments offered by participants:



"The monsoon institute was very much useful for me... this is the first time that I had an opportunity to learn advances in monsoon in such detail, both from faculties and colleagues." – Archana Shrestha, Nepal

"The two weeks experience will be my invaluable treasure in my life for the Institute provides me a platform to enlarge the knowledge regarding Asian Monsoon, a chance to meet so many friends and an opportunity to collaborate with friends for the future work. – Lin Liu, P.R. China

"The logistic arrangement is great and content of institute is very relevant. I feel like I have a much wider understanding of the monsoon sciences and broader knowledge of issues that lie ahead after attending the lectures... I am looking forward and ready to collaborate (with colleagues)." – Juneng Liew, Malaysia

"...I had an opportunity to meet and share some ideas and works with young scientists from other countries especially from Asian countries (most of the time I met only scientists from the US or some developed countries). I believe that we as young scientists will be seeing and working with each other again in the future. And of course, I also learned a lot about Monsoon system from many experts from well known organizations who participated in the institute." –Roongroj Chokngamwong, Thailand

4. Conclusions

The ultimate goal of the institute was to contribute to the objectives of APN and START, the Asia-Australia Monsoon Panel of the CLIVAR project of WCRP, and the MAIRS project of ESSP by enhancing indigenous capacity for research on the dynamics and prediction of the Asian Monsoon System in the Asia-Pacific region. Advanced training was accomplished and a cohesive and active network of young scientists has been developed. Closer collaboration between institutions within and outside of Asia-pacific region has likely been achieved.

5. Future Directions

While the institute session was successful in meeting all objectives, it is clear that there is a need to repeat the session in order to meet the demand and entrain a larger pool of young scientists. One indication of this is the relatively large number of applications received in comparison to the number of available spots for the institution. While this allowed the organizers to select the highest quality of participants, it also means that about 4 out of every 5 applicants were not selected. Hopefully this will partially be mitigated by the availability of the institute material on the website. Nevertheless, APN should take note of this challenge and consider allocating resources in future to further enhance and consolidate the capacity in the region so that the Asia-Pacific scientific community can both be active in research of regional and societal relevance as well as contribute to the global research programmes. Albeit, it may be appropriate and timely to encourage emulation of such capacity building activities within the leading institutions in Asia-Pacific, e.g. at IITM/India, APCC/APEC, FRCGC/Japan, IAP-CAS/China, etc.

As one participant noted, "the ultimate success of the institute depends on the participants - whether or not they will be able to sustain the established connections and networking." The advanced institute of January 2008 was an initial step in this direction.

6. References

Wang, Bin (Ed.) (2006). The Asian Monsoon. Chichester, UK: Springer-Verlag.

Appendix 1 – Funding outside the APN

- **International Pacific Research Foundation (IPRC):** Financial \$US 8,000.00 and in-kind.
- **Prof. Bin Wang:** Financial (through one of his research grants) \$US 1,000.00 and in-kind as Institute Director.
- SysTem for Analysis Research and Training (START): Financial \$US 20,000 and in-kind.
- **East West Center:** In-kind contributions of staff time and venue.
- Senior Faculty Salary: In-kind from own institute.

Institute on "The Asian Monsoon System: Prediction of Change and Variability"

Organized by START

Jan 2-12 2008

East-West Center, University of Hawaii

1601 East-West Road Honolulu, Hawaii 96848-1711 John A. Burns Hall (JAB) Room 3015/19 – main room Room 3012 – breakout room

Agenda for Training

Wednesday January 2, 2008:

0800-0830: Registration

0830-0900: Welcome and Introductions

H. Virji/START: Goals and Objectives	(10 Minutes)
Nancy Lewis/East-West Center: Local host	(5 Minutes)
Jay McCreary/IPRC: Local host	(5 Minutes)
Bin Wang/IPRC: Overall Program and Schedule	(10 Minutes)

- 0900-1000: Participants introduce themselves and their research interests (3 minutes each)
- 1000-1030: Coffee/Tea Break
- 1030-1230: Plenary lectures: The coupled monsoon system (Bin Wang/Anamalai)
- 1230-1400: Lunch Break
- 1400-1500: Plenary lectures: The coupled monsoon system (Bin Wang/Anamalai).
- 1500-1520: Coffee/Tea Break
- 1520:1730: Introduction to Pacific Data Center and other data sources (Hacker)

PRACTICUM on accessing PDC and IPRC model resources/tools

1730: Adjourn

Thursday, 3 January 2008

- 0830-1030: Plenary lectures: Interannual variations and ENSO-monsoon interaction (Zhou/Li)
- 1000-1030: Coffee/Tea Break
- 1030-1230: Plenary lectures: Interannual variations and ENSOmonsoon interaction (Zhou/Li)
- 1230-1400: Lunch Break
- 1400-1520: Discussion and Research Seminars: (Three participant presentations on their current research work)
- 1520-1540: Coffee/Tea Break
- 1540-1730: Discussion
- 1730: Adjourn

Friday, 4 January 2008

- 0830-1030: Plenary lectures: Atmosphere- land interaction and water cycle (Xue)
- 1000-1030: Coffee/Tea Break
- 1030-1230: Plenary lectures: Atmosphere- land interaction and water cycle (Xue)
- 1230-1400: Lunch Break
- 1400-1520: Discussion and Research Seminars: (Three participant presentations on their current research work)
- 1520-1540: Coffee/Tea Break
- 1540-1730: Discussion
- 1730: Adjourn

Saturday, 5 January 2008

11:00 AM-4:00PM: Cookout/BBQ

Sunday, 6 January 2008

8:00AM – 4:00PM: Island Bus Tour, pick up and drop off in front of Burns Hall

Monday, 7 January 2008

- 0830-1030: Plenary lectures: Intraseasonal variability and predictability (Waliaser/Fu)
- 1000-1030: Coffee/Tea Break
- 1030-1230: Plenary lectures: Intraseasonal variability and predictability (Waliaser/Fu)
- 1230-1400: Lunch Break
- 1400-1520: Discussion and Research Seminars: (Three participant presentations on their current research work)
- 1520-1540: Coffee/Tea Break
- 1540-1730: Discussion
- 1730: Adjourn

Tuesday, 8 January 2008:

- 0830-1030: Plenary lectures: Inter-decadal Variation and Historical Record (Kirpalani)
- 1000-1030: Coffee/Tea Break
- 1030-11:20: Plenary lectures: Inter-decadal Variation and Historical Record (Kirpalani)
- 11:30-1230: Plenary lectures: Variability of SST and role of Ocean (McCreary/Potemra)
- 1230-1400: Lunch Break
- 1400-1520: Plenary Lectures: Variability of SST and role of Ocean (McCreary/Potemra)
- 1520-1540: Coffee/Tea Break
- 1540-1730: Discussion
- 1730: Adjourn

Wednesday, 9 January 2008

- 0830-1030: Plenary lectures: Simulation and Projections of Monsoon Variability over South and East Asia (Akio Kitoh)
- 1000-1030: Coffee/Tea Break

- 1030-11:20: Plenary lectures: Simulation and Projections of Monsoon Variability over South and East Asia (Akio Kitoh)
- 11:30-12:30: Introduction to APEC Climate Center (Park/Ashok)
- 1230-1400: Lunch Break
- 1400-1520: Discussion and Research Seminars: (Three participant presentations on their current research work)
- 1520-1540: Coffee/Tea Break
- 1540-1730: Discussion
- 1730: Adjourn

Thursday, 10 January 2008

- 0830-1030: Plenary lectures: Modeling, predictability and prediction (Kang/Lee)
- 1000-1030: Coffee/Tea Break
- 1030-1230: Plenary lectures: Modeling, predictability and prediction (Kang/Lee)
- 1230-1400: Lunch Break
- 1400-1520: Discussion and Research Seminars: (Three participant presentations on their current research work)
- 1520-1540: Coffee/Tea Break
- 1540-1730: Discussion
- 1730: Adjourn

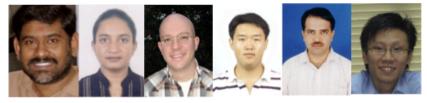
Friday, 11 January 2008

- 0830-1030: TBD
- 1000-1030: Coffee/Tea Break
- 1030-1230: TBD
- 1230-1400: Lunch Break
- 1400-1520: TBD
- 1520-1540: Coffee/Tea Break
- 1540-1730: Participant Evaluation of the Institute Session
- 1730: Adjourn end of institute session

Face Book











The Asian Monsoon System: Prediction of Change and Variability Advanced Institute • 2-12 January 2008 • Honolulu, Hawaii

Institute website: http://www.start.org/Monsoon2008/home.html

Institute list-serve:

http://mail.atmos.washington.edu/cgibin/mailman/listinfo/monsoon-inst To post to list, send mail to: monsoon-inst@atmos.washington.edu

 \ast Indicates that the individual did not attend the Institute due to non-receipt of US visa or other conflict.

Participants



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Dr. Ahmed is a Professor at the University of Dhaka. He teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in Environmental Science, Global Climate Change, Ecological and Environmental Modeling, and Oceanography and has recently been engaging in various environmental related research projects. Dr. Ahmed graduated in 1997 with a PhD from the Ocean Research Institute at the University Tokyo under a Japanese Government of Scholarship (MONBUSHO). His doctoral research focused on use of physical-ecological modeling (specifically three dimensional physical-ecological coupled environmental models) to understand the impact of Westerlies on the bio-geo-chemical cycling in the Pacific Ocean.



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Dr. Aldrian is a staff member at the Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology where his main research focus is climate research. He recently finished several collaborative projects on climate and water studies, most of which involved partners from other countries. He also is a lecturer at the University of Indonesia, Jakarta and the Bogor Institute for Agriculture, Jakarta. Dr. Aldrian graduated with a PhD from the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology, Hamburg, Germany. His PhD work was on climate modeling research focusing on the Indonesian Monsoon and involved a multiscale atmospheric, ocean and coupled oceanatmospheric modeling approach.



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Ms. An is a junior research assistant of the APEC Climate Center (APCC) where she also studies the extra-tropical predictability and the impact of tropical heating correction using GCM. Ms. An is currently involved in the production of the APCC Seasonal Forecast and she is the focal point of an APCC international joint research project conducted by CliPAS(Climate Predication and its Application to Society). She holds a Master of Science in Earth and Environmental Sciences from the Seoul National University.



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Ms. Avila is a research assistant at the Regional Climate Systems Program of the Manila Observatory. Her current research involves rainfall change and variability in the Philippines and Southeast Asia, climatology and forecasting of tropical cyclones, and assessment of disaster risks due to climate and weather related hazards. Ms. Avila is pursuing a Master of Science in Physics at Ateneo de Manila University. She currently holds a Bachelor of Science degree in both Computer Engineering and Physics.



Dr. William Boos

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Dr. Boos has spent the past five years in graduate studies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), examining the role played by winddependent surface heat fluxes in the abrupt onset of monsoon circulations. In particular, his thesis used theory, numerical models, and observations examine seasonally-varving to monsoon circulations in a framework where moist convection redistributes energy in the vertical to maintain the atmosphere in a quasi-equilibrium state. In addition to academic research, he has done some applied work on the impacts of climate variability in developing countries through intensive workshops and collaborative efforts. Dr. Boos recently defended his thesis and now holds a PhD in Atmospheric Science from MIT.



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Dr. Chokngamwong is a System Administrator and Research Assistant at the Center for Earth Observing and Space Research, George Mason University. His responsibilities include managing and maintaining the server for the Polar Satellite Precipitation Data Center (PSPDC), processing and evaluating satellite data, and developing a technique for rain estimation using satellite, microwave, and infrared data. He is especially interested in evaluation and development of satellite rainfall estimation from hydrological remote sensing data. Dr. Chonkgamwong holds a PhD in Computational Sciences and Informatics from George Mason University.



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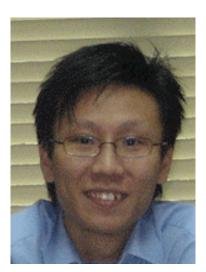
Dr. Karunasingha obtained her Ph.D. degree from the National University of Singapore (NUS) in 2006. She graduated from University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka, specializing in Civil Engineering and worked as a Research Assistant and then as a Lecturer in the Department of Engineering Mathematics, University of Peradeniya, prior to joining NUS as a Research Scholar to pursue her Ph.D. Currently she is employed in the Department of Engineering Mathematics, University of Peradeniya as a Senior Lecturer. Her research area is investigation of data-driven techniques in solving problems of hydrology. Her research interests include hydro-informatics, data mining, data assimilation, mathematical modeling and machine learning (e.g. neural networks and support vector machines) applications in engineering.



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Dr. Kumar is a research associate at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology. He is currently working on a funded project on the "Development of Regional Atmosphere-Ocean Coupled Modeling Strategy for Predicting Indian Summer Monsoon." His research interests are in the South Asian Monsoon, climate modeling, diagnostics, and development of future climate scenarios to study the inter-annual and long-term variations in the monsoon systems. Dr. Kumar holds a PhD in Atmospheric Physics from Pune University.



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Dr. Liew is a junior lecturer at the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology. He is also a leader of two Malaysian government funded scientific projects, working on developing a numerical weather forecasting system and on evaluation of some of the climate downscaling techniques commonly used for the Malaysia region. The focus of his current research encompasses meso-scale marine meteorology and short-term variability of the climate system. He holds a PhD from the University of Kebangsaan in Marine Meteorology.



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Dr. Liu joined the First Institute of Oceanography after he earned his PhD in 2006. He is currently involved in two projects. One is a collaborative project with the Indonesian Agency of Marine and Fisheries Research (AMFR) in which he is collecting in-situ observations in the tropical southeastern Indian Ocean. The second involves identifying the influence of the monsoon seasonal cycle on the development of inter-annual climate anomalies, i.e., the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD). He is especially interested in detecting new phenomena and exploring the fundamental principles of air-sea interactions in the tropical region. He holds a PhD from the College of Physical and Environmental Oceanography, Ocean University of China.



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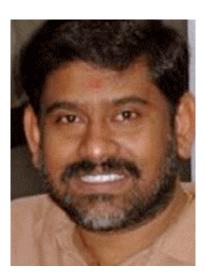
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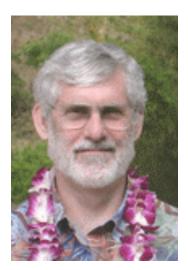
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