



Press Release: Priorities for Climate Observations, Research and Predictions High on Agenda

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Ghassem R. Asrar, Director of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), gave a press briefing this morning at the United Nations in Geneva in anticipation of the WCRP Open Science Conference that will take place next week (24-28 October) in Denver, USA. He stressed the uniqueness of the event, the fact that hundreds of the world's top climate scientists would be discussing successes and challenges in Earth system science as wide ranging as climate predictions, the role of the polar regions, extremes and the need for regional climate information. The conference participants will share the latest findings and discoveries about the Earth/climate system, and they will also listen to decision makers, city planners, those in charge of humanitarian aid and businesses, who will share their perspectives on, and needs for, climate information.

Another unique aspect of the Conference highlighted by Dr Asrar was that almost one third of the participants will be students or early career scientists. He noted that equally important to identifying future challenges and opportunities for climate research was forming the next generation of scientists who can address these issues.

Dr Asrar fielded many questions from the press officers present, in particular about recent extreme climate events and their link to anthropogenic activities. Dr Asrar explained that this was a major topic for the Conference and that a great deal of research was ongoing which would help identify what aspects of such events could be attributed to climate warming and assess future probabilities for such extreme events.

Press Release: http://conference2011.wcrp-climate.org/Media/OSC_pressrelease_19oct_final.pdf