Climate Research Committee
Fall 2008 Meeting

Meeting Dates: December 2-3, 2008
(Followed by Workshop on Uncertainty Management in Remote Sensing of Climate Data on December 4th)

Location: The National Academies’ Keck Center
500 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001

Tuesday, 2 December 2008 (Room 100)

8:00 A.M.  Continental breakfast
8:30 A.M.  Welcome, introductions, and meeting goals  Jerry Meehl (NCAR), CRC Chair

WCRP-CCSP-CRC Roundtable

The CRC serves as the U.S. National Committee for the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU). Each year, a portion of the CRC’s fall meeting is reserved to facilitate interactions between WCRP, U.S. federal agencies, and other interested parties. Questions to be addressed during the Roundtable include:

1. New directions: What changes have the new WCRP Joint Scientific Committee (JSC) Chair and Executive Director made with regard to WCRP plans, priorities, and procedures, and what further changes are being considered? What is the long-term strategic vision for WCRP and its Core Projects, both for the next five years and beyond 2013? How are the Chair and Executive Director engaging the JSC and Core Projects in these and other decisions? What impact have recent changes at WMO had on WCRP? What is the response to the recent draft review of WCRP?

2. Funding: What does the current WCRP funding situation look like? What impacts have recent funding constraints had on staffing levels, support for Core Projects and Crosscuts, and other WCRP activities? What impact do funding levels have on current and future priority-setting? What is the future funding outlook?

3. Other activities: What is the scope and anticipated outcomes of the WCRP Crosscuts? What are WCRP’s plans for the 2009 World Climate Conference? How is WCRP engaging and working with the World Climate Program (WCP)? To what extent does WCRP currently and eventually plan to integrate with ESSP activities?

4. Interactions with U.S. agencies: What is the current level of communication and coordination between WCRP and U.S. Federal Agencies, and how could these interactions be further improved?

8:45 A.M.  Overview and update on WCRP activities  Tony Busalacchi, WCRP JSC Chair
            Ghassem Asrar, WCRP Director
Forum on Decadal Prediction

Decadal climate prediction--i.e., initialized high-resolution earth system model integrations for the next 10-30 years--has recently emerged as a promising avenue for supporting near-term responses to climate change, such as adaptation planning. Accordingly, several groups have been discussing plans for coordinated suites of decadal prediction experiments, both in the U.S. and internationally. Significant questions remain, however, about the inherent predictability of the climate system on these timescales, the availability of data to properly initialize decadal prediction models, the best methods for making these experiments useful for climate-related decision-making, and other issues. This forum will include an overview of recent plans and progress in decadal prediction and provide a venue for discussing critical issues and next steps.

11:00 A.M.  Introduction, overview of scientific issues and challenges  Jerry Meehl (NCAR), CRC Chair
11:15 A.M.  Summary of AGCI workshop  Lisa Goddard (IRI)
11:45 P.M.  Ocean initialization and related data issues  Tony Rosati (GFDL)
12:15 P.M.  Lunch - informal discussion
1:15 P.M.  Data requirements for decadal predication  Roger Lukas (U. Hawaii), CRC Member
1:45 P.M.  Decadal mechanisms - Atlantic MOC  Tom Delworth (GFDL)
2:15 P.M.  Decadal mechanisms - Pacific  Jerry Meehl (NCAR), CRC Chair
2:45 P.M.  Break
3:00 P.M.  Decadal prediction skill  Gabriele Hegerl (U. Edinburgh), CRC Member
3:30 P.M.  Implications of future climate risk on decadal timescales from the insurance industry perspective  Celine Herweijer (RMS)
4:00 P.M.  Applications of decadal prediction - California water  Rob Lempert (RAND), CRC Member
4:30 P.M.  Discussion
5:00 P.M.  Wrap-up and concluding remarks  Jerry Meehl (NCAR)
5:15 P.M.  Reception honoring Tony Busalacchi for his CRC service (Keck Foyer)
Wednesday, 3 December 2008 (Room 201)

8:00 A.M.  Continental breakfast
8:30 A.M.  Welcome and goals for the day  Jerry Meehl
8:45 A.M.  Discussion and follow-up items from yesterday  All
9:30 A.M.  Review of recently released NRC reports
10:15 A.M.  Break
10:30 A.M.  Review and discussion of new and ongoing NRC activities
11:45 A.M.  Open session adjourns