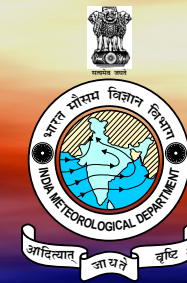




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ANNOUNCEMENT



First session of South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF-1)

Pune, India, 13-15 April 2010



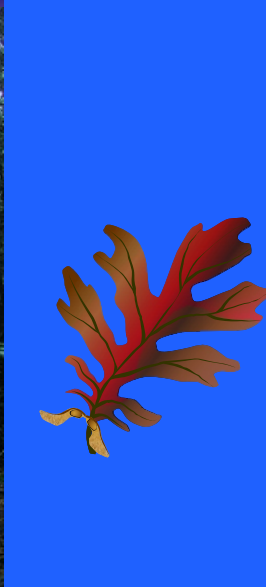
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BACKGROUND

Recognizing that climate predictions could be of substantial benefit to many parts of the world in risk management and adaptation to cope with the impacts of climate variability and change, regional climate outlook forums (RCOFs) were conceived with an overarching responsibility to produce and disseminate a regional assessment (using a predominantly consensus-based approach) of the state of the regional climate for the upcoming season. Built into the RCOF process is a regional networking of the climate service providers and user-sector representatives. Participating countries recognize the potential of climate prediction and seasonal forecasting as a powerful development tool to help populations and decision-makers face the challenges posed by climatic variability and change.

Supported by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) through its Climate Information and Prediction Services (CLIPS) project and several other international partners, RCOFs have been actively functioning in several parts of the world since more than a decade. In Asia, China has been coordinating an RCOF called Forum on Regional Climate Monitoring, Assessment and Prediction for Regional Association II, Asia (FOCR-II) since 2005, covering the entire continent. Considering that Asia is a large continent with large differences in the climatological settings on a sub-regional scale, WMO's Regional Association II (Asia) recommended sub-regional RCOFs devoted to specific needs of groups of countries having similar climatic characteristics.

In a meeting convened by WMO of the Directors General of the National Meteorological Services in South Asia and Permanent Representatives (PRs) of the respective countries with WMO, at the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Trieste, Italy, on 6 August 2009, the PRs have unanimously agreed to establish a South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF), to be implemented from 2010 onwards. WMO has agreed to assist in the coordination of SASCOF sessions initially, until a permanent arrangement is worked out. It has been agreed that the first session of SASCOF will be held by India and subsequent sessions will be hosted by the participant countries by rotation. It was also decided that the SASCOF will initially have exclusive focus on the summer monsoon, and the needs for covering other aspects of the sub-regional climate will be addressed in due course. For more background information on RCOF concept, please visit http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/wcasp/RCOF_Concept.html.



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RELEVANCE OF SUMMER MONSOON TO SOUTH ASIA

Southwest monsoon plays a very crucial role in the entire socio-economic fabric of South Asia, critically affecting all walks of life. The southwest monsoon (June-September) rainfall accounts for 75-90% of the annual rainfall of the most of the countries of the region. Several studies highlight the critical dependence of crop production on monsoon rainfall. The summer monsoon rainfall is also important for hydroelectric power generation and meeting out drinking water requirements. Thus, being essentially driven by the agricultural growth, the economies of all South Asian countries are inextricably tied to the performance of the summer monsoon. Monsoon prediction and outlook is therefore a shared challenge for South Asian nations, and SASCOF will initially focus on facilitating a common understanding and develop consensus-based outlook for the ensuing summer monsoon, in collaboration with national, regional and global experts.

OBJECTIVES

1. To review the progress made in understanding and long range prediction of summer monsoon both regionally and globally.
2. To provide a platform for the stakeholders of SASCOF to share and exchange experience and knowledge on summer monsoon and its prediction.
3. To build collaboration and partnerships among the members of SASCOF for mutual benefit.
4. To identify needs of end-users through a dialog among different groups.



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SASCOF-1

SASCOF-1 will be hosted by the India Meteorological Department in Pune, India, from 13 to 15 April 2010. The Forum is expected to provide a climate outlook for the coming summer monsoon season of 2010. Experts from the SASCOF member countries Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, as well as several regional and global experts will participate. The forum includes appraisals of country perspectives, assessing capacity building needs, global and regional indicators, consensus outlook generation, issue and user interaction. The participating national climate experts will receive guidance in using, interpreting and downscaling global seasonal prediction products, and in developing a consensus outlook. All participating SASCOF Members are expected to send an expert dealing with seasonal climate predictions/outlooks. In order to facilitate the dialogue and promote the use of RCOF products by the climate sensitive user sectors, the Forum will also be attended by representative section of the user community.



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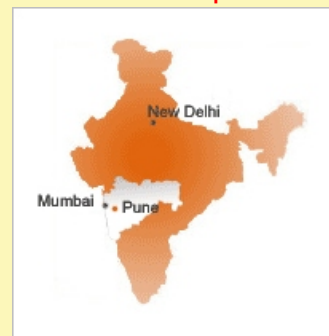
ORGANIZERS

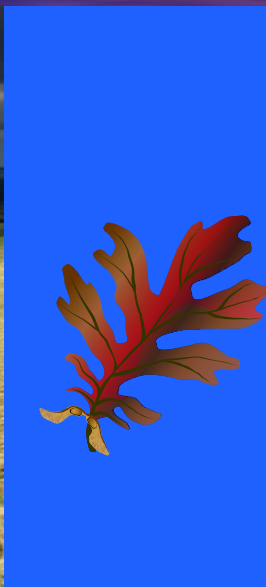
India Meteorological Department (IMD)
Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

SPONSORS

Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Location Map of Pune





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Pune Weather (April)

Max. Temp. - 38°C

Min. Temp. - 20°C