31st Session of South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF-31)
for the Summer Season and
Climate Services User Forum (CSUF)

Pune, India
April 28-30, 2025

Concept Note

Background:

South Asia is home to about one fourth of the world's population and occupies only 3% of the global land area, making it the most densely populated geographical region in the world. Predominantly, the weather and climate of South Asia is prevailed by the Southwest monsoon. Almost 70-80% of the total annual rainfall in most parts of the region occurs during the monsoon season (June–September) and the monsoon can have great socioeconomic impacts of this region. Seasonal to inter-annual variability of monsoon rainfall, both in amount and distribution, often results in severe droughts or floods over this densely populated region, with large-scale impacts on the agrarian societies in terms of agricultural production and food security. As there is a strong link between the impacts of the summer monsoon and the overall economic condition of South Asian countries, in order to plan and implement programs to encourage sustainable economic growth, South Asia requires even more accurate, reliable and useful information about the monsoon as well as early warnings about monsoon activity.

The monsoon is a strongly coupled phenomenon in which ocean, atmosphere and large land mass are integral components of the system. The science behind the South Asian monsoon and its variability on different time and space scales is quite complex and the monsoon prediction is still considered to be a difficult problem. However, the last few decades have seen remarkable advances in the understanding and prediction with longer lead time of several aspects of the monsoon, mainly the rainfall strength and its pattern.

Forum

The objective of the forum is to prepare consensus seasonal climate information on regional scale that provides a consistent basis for preparing national level outlooks. Such platforms also serve to interact with user sector to understand and enhance the use of climate information.

The SASCOF-31 is **scheduled to be held during 28-30th April 2025 in Pune, India**. The Regional Climate Center (RCC), Pune of India Meteorological Department (IMD), UK Met Office (UKMO), Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early-warning System for Asia and Africa (RIMES), The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and WMO (World Meteorological Organization) shall be involved in organizing this session of SASCOF and shall provide technical support.

Overview of the agenda

During the **24th-26th April**, **2025** a two-part pre-COF hands on training workshop will build upon previous delivered training. Part 1 will focus on foundational seasonal prediction concepts, while Part 2 will focus on impact analysis of seasonal outlook using tool developed by UNESCAP.

On **April 25, 2025**, there will be Country Presentations to discuss the country forecasts and prepare a draft seasonal climate outlook.

The Day 1: April 28, 2025 - Technical session will consider available seasonal prediction output from WMO Global Producing Centers (GPCs) and the Lead Centre for LRF MME together with presentation of country forecasts and discussions.

Day 2 and 3: April 29 and 30, 2025 - User oriented sessions focused on sharing, understanding and interpreting the seasonal climate outlook. It is proposed to focus on Agriculture, Water, Disaster Risk Reduction and Health sectors during this session of summer SASCOF. The summer rains in south Asia play a crucial role in the productivity of irrigation based agricultural sectors. A small improvement in agricultural productivity, new, improved or strengthened processes for anticipating and dealing with the adverse effects associated with weather and climate events, the effectiveness of investments or management of disease outbreaks, using climate information, can translate into significant benefits if widely applied across multiple sectors. CSUF will bring together experts in seasonal predictions and operational users from agricultural, irrigation, disaster risk reduction and health departments of South Asian countries creating a platform for understanding seasonal climate information to make effective use to manage climate risks in the region. The session will recommend further needs of the sector in terms of customized products and tools to support decision-making.

Participation

All National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of South Asia; invited national and international experts; experts from WMO and RIMES; experts from RCCs, Tokyo Climate Center JMA, UK Met Office, UNESACP and other GPCs, IMD and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM).

Outcome

SASCOF-31 will prepare a climate outlook for the 2025 summer season covering the months from June to September. NMHSs from SASCOF member countries Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, as well as several regional and global experts will jointly prepare this consensus outlook.

The CSUF special session will focus on interface with users from the Water, Agriculture, Disaster Risk Reduction and Health sector to interpret seasonal climate information and understand their specific needs with a view to further customizes climate information.

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