

A Brief Account of the International Conference on Regional Climate – CORDEX 2013

By Roberta Boscolo (WCRP) and Eleanor O'Rourke (SHMI)

Around 480 participants from 97 countries took part in this week's International Conference on Regional Climate – Cordex 2013 in Brussels, Belgium.

The conference, co-sponsored by the European Commission (EC), WCRP and the WMO/UNEP IPCC, opened with a High-Level session followed by a Dialogue with Stakeholders highlighting the policy-makers and end-users needs. The findings of the IPCC AR5 were presented by Thomas Stocker who said, "the warming of the climate system is unequivocal" adding that 90% of the increase in energy is being stored in the oceans. The presentation outlined temperature and precipitation scenarios under a massive policy intervention vs "business as usual" approach. "Limiting climate change will require substantial and sustained reductions of greenhouse gas emissions," said WMO Secretary-General Michel Jarraud.



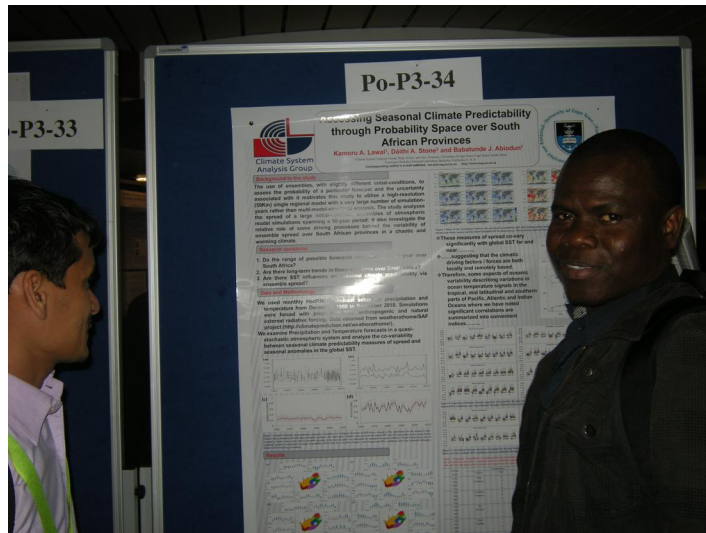
High-Level Session, from left: Rory Howlett (Chief Editor of Nature Climate Change), Michel Jarraud (Secretary-General of WMO), Connie Hedegaard (European Commissioner for Climate Action), Valentinas Mazuronis (Minister of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania), Andrea Tilche (European Commission DG Research & Innovation), Ghassem Asrar (Director WCRP), Jean-Pascal van Ypersele (Vice-Chair IPCC), Thomas Stoker (Co-Chair IPCC WG1), Kurt Vandenberghe (European Commission DG Research & Innovation)

The event continued with the Scientific Segment diving into regional climate change research with particular emphasis on CORDEX (<http://wcrp-cordex.ipsl.jussieu.fr/>). The scientific segment was developed under three main themes:

- "Evaluation of CORDEX Regional Downscaling: Present Climate and Future Change" that reviewed the existing CORDEX and WCRP regional research worldwide

- “Methodologies for Regional Downscaling” that assessed the status and progress of regional downscaling techniques from dynamical to statistical approaches as well as the availability of data for model validation.
- “Application, Impacts and Services” that explored the potential of CORDEX for climate adaptation, impacts and vulnerability studies.

Poster sessions throughout the three science days facilitated interaction amongst the participants especially between the students and early career scientists (ECS) and the more senior researchers. A special event for students and ECS’ was organized by WCRP in order to promote the networking and the mentoring needed for those who are beginning a career in regional climate. Among the participants there were 60 students, 37 early career scientists (ECS) and 35 scientists from developing countries, with 76 of them being the recipients of the travel grant to attend the conference.



Poster Sessions

For every poster session a team of evaluators and a panel of judges selected the best posters presented by ECS or students. The 16 awards recipients in total, out of a total of 89 posters reviewed, received a certificate citing “Best Poster Presentation” by the Director of WCRP during a ceremony at the end of each day.



Announcement of the best poster awards recipients with Director of WCRP handing the certificates

The conference oral presentations, the pictures and videos are accessible through the conference webpage http://cordex2013.wcrp-climate.org/programme_glance.shtm