

Successful 2nd Workshop (IPWG-2004)

The 2nd workshop of the IPWG was held 25-28 October 2005 in Monterey, California, hosted by the Naval Research Laboratory's Marine Meteorology Division. This event brought together over fifty participants from more than nineteen countries spanning all WMO Regions attended. Two days of formal presentation were followed by working groups in research activities, validation, and operational applications. A complete proceedings is nearly completed and will be published this spring and sent to all IPWG attendees. If you would like a copy, please notify the IPWG co-chairpersons (contact information at the end).

GPCC Update

Two new analysis products are now available from the Global Precipitation Climatology Center (GPCC). The first is a new 50-year Precipitation Climatology 1951-2000, optimized for homogeneity in time, and the other is Version 3 of the Full Data Product 1951-2004, optimized for best spatial coverage. The gridded data, format description and an introduction (pdf) is accessible via GPCC's website <http://gpcc.dwd.de>.

GPCP Assessment Meeting

The Global Precipitation Climatology Program (GPCP) Precipitation Assessment Workshop will take place 19-21 April 2005 in Bologna, Italy. The assessment will review the procedures and input data to the development of the GPCP data set, its spatial and temporal variability, the future outlook for new and improved data sets and recommendations about the quality and use of these data for studying the climate. While the assessment will focus on the GPCP data set, other sources of global precipitation data will be included to help support the analyses and conclusions of this assessment.

Workshop on Passive Microwave Modeling and Retrieval of Snowfall

The IPWG along with the GEWEX Radiation Panel (GRP) and NASA's Global Precipitation Measurement Program (GPM), will co-sponsor a workshop on passive microwave modeling and retrieval of snowfall. The aim of this workshop is to review the state of the art in passive microwave modeling and retrieval of falling snow over both land and ocean and to develop future directions and requirements for algorithm development, implementation and validation of applications ranging from short-term weather forecasting to climate data set generation. The workshop is being organized by Dr. Ralf Bennartz of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and will take place 11-13 October 2005 on the UW-Madison campus.

IPWG Validation Project

In 2003, the IPWG began a project to validate and intercompare operational and semi-operational satellite rainfall estimates over Australia and the US in near real time. A European verification was added in 2004, and other regions may be included in the future. This study focuses on the large-scale validation of daily rainfall estimates, for two reasons. First, the large number of rainfall observations from rain gauges at the 24-hour time scale provides good quality verification data on a large scale. Second, daily rainfall estimates are required as input to a large number of climate and other applications. For comparison, 1-day forecasts from a limited number numerical weather prediction models, namely the ECMWF, the US (NCEP), and US Navy (NOGAPS) global model, and the

Australian regional model, are also verified. Full details and website links are available at <http://www.bom.gov.au/bmrc/SatRainVal/validation-intercomparison.html>.

Cooperative Institute for Climate Studies (CICS) Archive Site

One goal of making precipitation data publically available is to encourage the validation and intercomparison of satellite precipitation estimates in additional regions of the globe using high quality and/or national rainfall reference data. The IPWG would like to work with (and share scripts and code with) scientists who have access to suitable reference data over other regions of the globe. On a broader scale the IPWG is interested in the evaluation of these satellite precipitation estimates as input to weather, climate, hydrological, and agricultural models and other applications. The IPWG Satellite Precipitation Archive is located at the Cooperative Institute for Climate Studies (CICS) at the University of Maryland. It is a dynamic archive, that is, it is updated on a daily basis and it is possible to add new satellite and reference data. The CICS archive is at: <ftp://cics.umd.edu/pub/DATA/Validation>.

More detailed information about the archive can be obtained from the documentation located in the archive main directory, or from the IPWG Satellite Precipitation Archive web site, http://www.bom.gov.au/bmrc/SatRainVal/IPWG_precip_archive.html. The CICS archive is coordinated by Beth Ebert, BMRC-Melborne, Australia (e.berbt@bom.gov.au), John Janowiak, NOAA CPC (john.janowiak@noaa.gov), Chris Kidd, Univ.of Birmingham-UK (c.kidd@bham.ac.uk), Arnold Gruber, CICS, Univ. of Maryland (agruber@essic.umd.edu), and Xungang Yin, archive manager, CICS, Univ. of Maryland (yin@essic.umd.edu).

Proposal for the Evaluation High-Resolution Precipitation Products (PEHRPP)

Through the efforts of Phil Arkin of the Earth System Science Interdisciplinary Center (ESSIC) at the Univ. of Maryland, the IPWG has proposed that a Pilot Evaluation of HRPP (PEHRPP) be established as a coordinated initiative of interested international groups, including the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), the IPWG and the World Meteorological Organization Space Programme, of the International Global Observing Strategy (IGOS) Partners Global Water Cycle Theme. The goals of PEHRPP are to: (1) Develop an understanding of the differences among the various HRPP and the strengths and weaknesses of each. (2) Document, for satellite operators, the data requirements necessary to enable HRPP production and development to proceed optimally and efficiently. (3) Facilitate the development of improved HRPP for various applications. (4) Identify requirements, opportunities and uses for retrospective processing of selected HRPP. An initial planning meeting is tentatively scheduled for mid-June of this year at the University of California-Irvine campus.

Upcoming Presentations and Meetings

IPWG activities will be briefed at several upcoming relevant meetings this year, including the upcoming Joint Center for Satellite Data Assimilation (JCSDA) workshop on precipitation data assimilation. If you or your organization can benefit from the IPWG, or you are interested in becoming involved, please contact the IPWG co-chairpersons. As a reminder, the 3rd IPWG workshop is tentatively planned for autumn 2006, to be hosted by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology.

For further information, contact the current IPWG co-chairpersons:

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